



ACTIVITY REPORT 2025 | 2026

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ACTIVITY REPORT **2025 | 2026**

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DEAR BIATHLON FRIENDS,

And just like that, eight years have gone by - and what eight wonderful years they have been!

We all remember the events of spring 2018, when biathlon captured headlines for all the wrong reasons. We knew biathlon had the best product in winter sports. We knew it had that intrinsic drama that never failed to amaze fans. We knew we had wonderful athletes, most of them guided by highly ethical principles. But due to poor governance, biathlon's reputation was seriously hampered.

For when one leads an International Sports Federation, one must strive to comply with the highest ethical standards every day. Because of athletes. Because of coaches, technicians, support personnel, and officials. Because of fans, media partners, and sponsors. Because of a dedicated and passionate staff.

Because of every child who ever looked up to biathlon and was inspired by its unique combination of endurance, speed, bursts of sprint, and calm nerves with a rifle. Because of biathlon's honesty - for targets always tell an athlete the sporting truth of the day.

With the election of the new leadership at the 13th Ordinary IBU Congress in Poreč, Croatia in 2018, we promised a new era. We knew we would have to dig deep, and we embraced the challenge. As we set out to prepare the strategic plan Target 26, we reached out to all our stakeholders to get a full and clear picture of where we stood - and, of even greater importance, where we wanted to go. Who did we want to be as the biathlon family?

The answer was clear: a family united by integrity, excellence and a shared love for this sport.

Together, we turned our vision into action. Integrity and governance became our foundation: the establishment of the independent Biathlon Integrity Unit restored trust, while our highest-ranked governance in winter sports set a new standard for transparency and accountability.

On the field, biathlon flourished as the most successful winter sport, driven by rising TV rights and sponsorship market value, increased global reach, phenomenal fan engagement and innovative formats that captivated new audiences. Our athlete-centric approach - from embedding an athlete representative in the Executive Board to championing diversity, equity and inclusion, youth development and para biathlon inclusion - ensured the sport remained as fair as it was thrilling.

And we never lost sight of our responsibility to the planet. Our sustainability programme, recognised with the IOC Climate Action Award, proved that excellence and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

The power of unity fuelled us every step of the way. Through collaboration with the IOC, other winter sports governing International Federations, WADA, National Federations and athletes, we amplified biathlon's voice on the world stage. Our solidarity was unwavering, whether supporting Ukraine, reallocating medals with fairness, or ensuring global representation. This is the spirit of biathlon: a community bound by fairness, respect and friendship.

The foundations we've laid—from Target 26 to Target 2030, the new Constitution, the Biathlon Integrity Unit, and our under-

lying principles of Integrity, Governance, and Sustainability - are not just milestones but springboards for the future. To the biathlon family, I say: uphold these values, carry this momentum forward, and trust in the bright path ahead. The next chapter will be written by new hands, but the story remains everyone's to shape together.

To the athletes, officials, fans, partners, and the entire Biathlon Family who make this sport extraordinary: THANK YOU.

This journey has been the honour of my life. As I reflect on these eight years, I am filled with gratitude for what we have achieved and optimism for what is to come.

Biathlon's future is as bright as the passion that fuels it - keep aiming high, and the targets will always tell the truth.



OLLE DAHLIN
IBU President



DEAR BIATHLON FAMILY,

As we reflect on the 2025/2026 season, it is clear that this has been a year of unity, bold innovation and unwavering integrity - a testament to the strength of our shared vision for biathlon. Across every department, we have not only met the challenges of our time but have also laid the foundations for a sport that is more inclusive and sustainable, and fairer than ever before.

Our Development team closed gaps and opened doors, advancing athlete pathways through the IBU Academy and the Closing the Competition Gap strategy, while Biathlon 4 All and the first International Biathlon Day brought our sport to new audiences. We led by example in sustainability, earning the IOC Climate Action Award 2025 and launching a Roadmap to 2030 that shifts focus from activity to measurable impact - from the Forest of Champions initiative to the rooftop photovoltaic system at IBU HQ. Meanwhile, Para biathlon achieved record participation, with 126 athletes from 22 nations competing across three World Cups and the Paralympic Winter Games, proving that our sport is as adaptive as it is ambitious.

The Sport & Event Department set new standards with the rifle safety marker, the groundbreaking Loop One Festival in Munich's Olympic Park and the expansion of Qualifying Points to lower-level competitions. History was made with the

debut of a refugee athlete in the World Cup and the record-breaking success of Milano Cortina 2026, where sold-out grandstands and global audiences witnessed biathlon at its finest. Our Communications team harnessed this momentum, delivering a 20-fold increase in impressions and a 900% surge in engagement through the Reach 26 Initiative, while solidifying biathlon's position as the top winter sports governing International Federation for social media engagement.

Independent in its operations, the Biathlon Integrity Unit continued to pioneer safeguarding, mental health and anti-doping efforts, from Project Safe Voice - an AI-enabled screening tool - to the Biathlon Governance Framework, which now supports National Federations in upholding the highest governance standards. The medal reallocation ceremonies held across the season were not just acts of justice, but powerful reminders of the values we stand for: fairness, transparency and trust.

Yet, our greatest strength remains our unity. Whether through the Athletes' Committee elections, the Mental Health Working Group, or the collaborative spirit of our Organising Committees, we have shown that biathlon thrives when we work together. The Target 2030 action plan, now in full swing, is a testament to this collective effort, ensuring that our

sport remains modern, sustainable and fan-focused for generations to come.

The year ahead will build on these achievements, adding a Commercial and Marketing Department, as we continue to innovate, unite and uphold the values that define biathlon. It is hard to imagine a more perfect legacy for our President and dear friend Olle Dahlin, who concludes his two four-year terms leading the IBU in September. Together, we will honour his leadership by ensuring our sport remains a beacon of integrity, excellence and inspiration for all.

With gratitude and optimism,



MAX COBB
IBU Secretary General

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OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES MILANO CORTINA 2026 **ANTHOLZ - ANTERSELVA** ITA



OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES MILANO CORTINA 2026: ANTHOLZ - ANTERSELVA 200,000 FANS, UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS



The Olympic Winter Games Milano-Cortina 2026 marked a historic moment for biathlon, with record crowds, triple-digit engagement growth across social media and a new generation of champions rising to the occasion. As legends stepped back, fresh faces and seasoned stars like **Maren Kirkeeide**, **Océane Michelon**, **Julia Simon**, **Quentin Fillon Maillet** and **Sturla Holm Laegreid** rewrote the history books in Antholz.

With the iconic Antholz-Anterselva Biathlon Arena having the largest capacity of any venue at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, accommodating 19,100 spectators, it welcomed almost 200,000 fans across the duration of the Games - an Olympic record for biathlon.

Milano-Cortina 2026 was set to crown a new generation of first-time Olympic biathlon champions. Following the retirement of Norwegian greats Marte Olsbu Røiseland, Johannes Thingnes Bø, Tarjei Bø and Tiril Eckhoff, France came to Antholz with the only two defending Olympic champions from Beijing 2022: Justine Braisaz-Bouchet in the Mass Start and Quentin Fillon Maillet in the Individual and Pursuit. Sweden's Hanna Öberg was the only other athlete with an individual gold medal, from the Individual at the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018.

While Braisaz-Bouchet didn't have the finest week in Antholz, Fillon Maillet added three new Olympic golds (and four medals altogether) to his extraordinary collection - Mixed Relay, Sprint and Men's Relay - and now counts five golds to his name. His teammates Julia Simon in the Individual and Océane Michelon in the Mass Start were joined by Maren Kirkeeide of Norway in the Sprint and Lisa Vittozzi of Italy in the Pursuit as the first-time women's Olympic champions. On the men's side, Johan Olav Botn of Norway in the Individual, Martin Ponsiluoma of Sweden and Johannes Dale-Skjervdal of Norway in the Mass Start found the finest daily form when it mattered most. Another Norwegian, Sturla Holm Laegreid, was the only athlete with a medal in each of the individual disciplines: he scored bronze in the Individual and Sprint and silver in the Pursuit and Mass Start. Laegreid was also the only athlete with five medals in Antholz, as he also starred in the Norwegian Men's Relay silver performance.

DAY 1 MIXED RELAY: 8 FEB 2026

FRANCE OPENS WINTER GAMES WITH MIXED RELAY OLYMPIC GOLD

French anchor **Julia Simon's** flawless 10-for-10 shooting and a powerful performance on the track secured France the Mixed Relay Olympic gold medal in 1:04:15.5. The French foursome - Simon, **Lou Jeanmonnot**, **Quentin Fillon Maillet** and **Eric Perrot** - used seven spare rounds to claim the first biathlon gold medal of the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

The home team, Italy, with **Lisa Vittozzi**, **Dorothea Wierer**, **Lukas Hofer** and **Tommaso Giacomel**, used five spares to finish 25.8 seconds behind for the silver medal. Germany, anchored by **Franziska Preuss** alongside **Vanessa Voigt**, **Philipp Nawrath** and **Justus Strelow**, won bronze. Despite incurring one penalty and using three spares, they finished 1:05.3 behind. This marked Germany's first-ever Olympic Mixed Relay medal.



STAT OF THE MIXED RELAY

A BRONZE MEDAL ANCHORED BY PREUSS MARKED GERMANY'S FIRST OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES MIXED RELAY PODIUM.

DAY 2 MEN INDIVIDUAL: 10 FEB 2026

DAY 3 WOMEN INDIVIDUAL: 11 FEB 2026

BOTN AND SIMON WIN IN THE INDIVIDUAL



Norwegian Olympic Winter Games rookie **Johan-Olav Botn** rose to the occasion, shooting clean while skiing strongly to win the Men's, 20 km Individual Gold medal. Botn, in the medal mix from the start, took over the lead from eventual silver medallist **Eric Perrot** after Perrot picked up a penalty in the first standing. From that point, Botn went unchallenged to gold. **Sturla Holm Laegreid** finished third, for his first-ever individual Olympic medal.

France's **Julia Simon** rebounded from a penalty in the first standing stage, gradually moving back up in the standings to win her career-first individual gold medal in the Women's 15km Individual. The French star's second stage missed shot, her only error on the range, dropped her 40 seconds off the lead, but she cleaned the next two stages quickly, skiing away with the Olympic title. Her teammate **Lou Jeanmonnot** gave France a 1-2 finish, following a similar path, falling back with two penalties, before closing her last five targets to secure the silver medal. Bulgaria's **Lora Hristova** shot clean, surprising with a personal best and first-ever podium for the bronze medal. Hristova's previous personal best of 13th place also came in the 15km Individual at the BMW IBU World Championships Lenzerheide 2025.

STAT OF THE INDIVIDUAL BOTN BECAME ONLY THE SECOND MAN TO WIN A BIATHLON GOLD OLYMPIC MEDAL IN HIS FIRST-EVER TRY. FRANCE'S VINCENT JAY WON THE 2010 VANCOUVER MEN'S 10KM SPRINT, ALSO SHOOTING CLEAN.

DAY 4 MEN SPRINT: 13 FEB 2026
DAY 5 WOMEN SPRINT: 14 FEB 2026

GOLD FOR FILLON MAILLET AND KIRKEEIDE

Quentin Fillon Maillet shot clean to win the Milano Cortina 2026 Men's 10km Sprint. He took the lead just before the prone stage at 2.9km, then blazed through both shooting bouts nearly unchallenged to claim the fourth Olympic gold medal of his career. After a stunning last lap, Norway's **Vetle Sjaastad Christiansen** and **Sturla Holm Laegreid** overtook **Emilien Jacquelin** to secure silver and bronze, respectively.

In the Women's 7.5km Sprint, Norwegian Olympic Winter Games rookie **Maren Kirkeeide** never led until the final stretch. With a spectacular last loop, she surged into the lead in the final few hundred metres to claim gold. Kirkeeide's clean-shooting victory marked her second individual podium in a major championship, following her bronze in the Mass Start at the BMW IBU World Championships Lenzerheide 2025. Her last-loop push relegated another Olympic Winter Games rookie, France's clean-shooting **Océane Michelin**, to silver - just 3.8 seconds back in her first-ever Olympic start. Michelin's teammate, **Lou Jeanmonnot**, won bronze despite one penalty.



STAT OF THE SPRINT WITH A BRONZE MEDAL IN THE SPRINT, LOU JEANMONNOT BECAME ONLY THE THIRD WOMAN TO WIN A MEDAL IN EACH OF HER FIRST THREE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES STARTS.

DAY 6 MEN PURSUIT AND WOMEN PURSUIT: 15 FEB 2026

PONSILUOMA STRIKES, VITTOZZI SEIZES THE MOMENT



Sweden's **Martin Ponsiluoma** entered the final standing stage of the Men's 12.5km Pursuit in second place, nearly 40 seconds behind leader **Emilien Jacquelin** of France. After Jacquelin incurred two penalties, Ponsiluoma shot quickly and cleanly, moving into first and skiing to his first-ever individual Olympic gold medal.

Sturla Holm Laegreid finished second, while Jacquelin took third - his first individual Olympic medal.

In the Women's 10km Pursuit, Italy's **Lisa Vittozzi** - like Ponsiluoma - entered the final standing stage in second place, trailing Norway's **Maren Kirkeeide**. While Kirkeeide missed twice, Vittozzi shot clean, seizing the lead and the gold medal. Kirkeeide finished second and Finland's **Suvi Minkkinen**, with a carefully executed race, claimed third for her first-ever individual Olympic Winter Games medal.

Vittozzi's victory added an individual Olympic gold to her Total Score title and her individual gold at the 2024 BMW IBU World Championships - a feat matched only by **Julia Simon** among currently active athletes.

STAT OF THE PURSUIT LISA VITTOZZI WON ITALY'S FIRST-EVER OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL IN BIATHLON AT THE WINTER GAMES.

DAY 7 MEN RELAY: 17 FEB 2026
DAY 8 WOMEN RELAY: 18 FEB 2026

FRANCE IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN

Eric Perrot capped off a remarkable comeback for **France**, anchoring his team to their first-ever Men's 4 x 7.5km Relay Olympic gold medal. **Emilien Jacquelin** sparked the rally, pulling the team back from 20th position and erasing a 50+ seconds deficit during the second leg. In a driving snowstorm, Perrot completed the French resurgence, taking over in a dead heat with rivals Norway and Sweden. Perrot and his teammates - **Fabien Claude, Emilien Jacquelin** and **Quentin Fillon Maillet** - used a single penalty and nine spare rounds to secure the win. **Norway**, with six spare rounds, claimed silver, while **Sweden**, also with six spares, took bronze.

It was déjà vu for the **French women's team**. An early penalty by **Camille Bened** put them 55 seconds behind, but their teammates responded with flawless shooting and blazing speed around the track. Anchor **Julia Simon** brought home the Milano Cortina Women's 4 x 6 km Relay gold medal with a commanding lead over silver medallists Sweden and bronze medallists **Norway**. This marked France's first Women's Relay Olympic gold since the inaugural women's competitions at Les Saisies in 1992.



STAT OF RELAYS FRANCE MADE OLYMPIC HISTORY IN MILANO CORTINA 2026, BECOMING THE FIRST NATION EVER TO SWEEP THE WOMEN'S, MEN'S AND MIXED RELAYS AT A SINGLE WINTER GAMES.

DAY 9 MEN MASS START: 20 FEB 2026
DAY 10 WOMEN MASS START: 21 FEB 2026

DALE-SKJEVDAL AND MICHELON REACH FOR THE STARS



Norway's **Johannes Dale-Skjevdal**, in just the third Olympic Winter Games start of his career, took control of the Men's 15km Mass Start by cleaning both standing stages and skiing to gold. He was the only man on a windy day to close all 20 targets. **Sturla Holm Laegreid** finished second, completing his set of individual Olympic medals in Antholz, while **Quentin Fillon Maillet** - powered by extraordinary ski speed - claimed third.

France's **Océane Michelon**, who narrowly missed gold in the Sprint, claimed victory in the Women's 12.5km Mass Start. Despite two penalties and starting eight seconds behind after the last standing stage, she skied through heavy snowfall, overtaking teammate **Julia Simon**, Sweden's **Anna Magnusson** and Czechia's **Tereza Voborníková** to secure the win.

STAT OF THE MASS START WITH THREE NEW GOLD MEDALS AND ONE BRONZE FROM MILANO CORTINA 2026, QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET NOW BOASTS NINE OLYMPIC MEDALS - FIVE GOLDS, THREE SILVERS AND ONE BRONZE - PLACING HIM SECOND ON THE MEN'S ALL-TIME BIATHLON OLYMPIC MEDALS LIST, BEHIND ONLY THE LEGENDARY OLE EINAR BJOERNDALEN.

OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES MILANO CORTINA 2026: ANTHOLZ-ANTERSELVA

MEDAL WINNERS

MEDAL STANDINGS

NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1. FRANCE	6	4	3	13
2. NORWAY	3	5	3	11
3. SWEDEN	1	1	1	3
4. ITALY	1	1	-	2
5. BULGARIA	-	-	1	1
5. CZECHIA	-	-	1	1
5. FINLAND	-	-	1	1
5. GERMANY	-	-	1	1



MEN 10KM SPRINT

- QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET **FRA**
- VETLE SJAASTAD CHRISTIANSEN **NOR**
- STURLA HOLM LAEGREID **NOR**



MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- FRANCE
- NORWAY
- SWEDEN



4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

- FRANCE
- ITALY
- GERMANY



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- MAREN KIRKEEIDE **NOR**
- OCEANE MICHELON **FRA**
- LOU JEANMONNOT **FRA**



WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- FRANCE
- SWEDEN
- NORWAY



MEN 20KM INDIVIDUAL

- JOHANN-OLAV S. BOTN NOR
- ERIC PERROT FRA
- STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR



WOMEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

- JULIA SIMON FRA
- LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
- LORA HISTROVA BUL



MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- MARTIN PONSILUOMA SWE
- STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
- EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA



WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- LISA VITTOZZI ITA
- MAREN KIRKEEIDE NOR
- SUVI MINKKINEN FIN



MEN 15KM MASS START

- JOHANNES DALE-SKJEVDAL NOR
- STURLA HOLM LAGREID NOR
- QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA



WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

- OCEANE MICHELON FRA
- JULIA SIMON FRA
- TEREZA VOBORNIKOVA CZE



PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES MILANO CORTINA 2026 **VAL DI Fiemme** ITA



PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES MILANO CORTINA 2026: VAL DI Fiemme

CHINA AND UKRAINE DOMINATE

The first Paralympic Winter Games held under the governance of the International Biathlon Union took place in Val di Fiemme, with Para biathlon competitions staged between 7 and 13 March. Despite difficult snow conditions, the full competition programme was completed, with 18 sets of medals awarded.

China emerged as the most successful nation, claiming eight gold medals and a total of 15 podium finishes - surpassing its medal tally from the Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. **Jiayun Cai** was one of the standout athletes of the Games, winning three gold medals in the men's standing category. **Yue Wang** secured two victories in the women's vision impaired category, while **Zixu Liu**, **Dang Hesong** and **Shuang Yu** each added one title.

Ukraine finished with 16 medals, one more than China overall, including further Paralympic titles for **Taras Rad**, **Oleksandr Kazik** and **Oleksandra Kononova**. Kononova's triumph was especially symbolic, coming 16 years after her first Paralympic Winter Games victory.

North American teams also celebrated success. **Oksana Masters** and **Kendall Gretsche** led Team USA to two gold medals in the women's sitting category,

while **Natalie Wilkie** claimed two titles for Canada.

Yerbol Khamitov from Kazakhstan, **Yunji Kim** from Korea and **Carina Edlingerova** from Czechia secured the first Paralympic Winter Games victories for their nations in Para biathlon. Germany finished the Games without a gold medal, but still collected a whopping nine medals overall. **Anja Wicker** and **Marco Maier** both reached the podium in all three events.





MEDAL STANDINGS

NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1. CHINA	8	5	2	15
2. UKRAINE	3	6	7	16
3. CANADA	2	2	0	4
4. USA	2	1	1	4
5. CZECHIA	1	2	1	4
6. KOREA	1	1	-	2
7. KAZAKHSTAN	1	-	-	1
8. GERMANY	-	1	8	9

PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES MILANO CORTINA 2026: VAL DI Fiemme

MEDAL WINNERS



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT SITTING

- 🥇 OKSANA MASTERS **USA**
- 🥈 KENDALL GRETSCH **USA**
- 🥉 ANJA WICKER **GER**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT SITTING

- 🥇 KENDALL GRETSCH **USA**
- 🥈 YUNJI KIM **KOR**
- 🥉 ANJA WICKER **GER**



WOMEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL SITTING

- 🥇 YUNJI KIM **KOR**
- 🥈 ANJA WICKER **GER**
- 🥉 KENDALL GRETSCH **USA**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT STANDING

- 🥇 OLEKSANDRA KONONOVA **UKR**
- 🥈 NATALIE WILKIE **CAN**
- 🥉 LIUDMYLA LIASHENKO **UKR**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT STANDING

- 🥇 NATALIE WILKIE **CAN**
- 🥈 IRYNA BUI **UKR**
- 🥉 OLEKSANDRA KONONOVA **UKR**



WOMEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL STANDING

- 🥇 NATALIE WILKIE **CAN**
- 🥈 ZHIQING ZHAO **CHN**
- 🥉 OLEKSANDRA KONONOVA **UKR**



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT VI

- 🥇 YUE WANG **CHN**
Guide: Guoming CHEN
- 🥈 CARINA EDLINGEROVA **CZE**
Guide: Alexandr PATAVA
- 🥉 LEONIE MARIA WALTER **GER**
Guide: Christian KRASMAN



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT VI

- 🥇 CARINA EDLINGEROVA **CZE**
Guide: Alexandr PATAVA
- 🥈 YUE WANG **CHN**
Guide: Guoming CHEN
- 🥉 SIMONA DUBENICKOVA **CZE**
Guide: David SRUTEK



WOMEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL VI

- 🥇 YUE WANG **CHN**
Guide: Guoming CHEN
- 🥈 SIMONA DUBENICKOVA **CZE**
Guide: David SRUTEK
- 🥉 JOHANNA RECKTENWALD **GER**
Guide: Emily Rose WEISS



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT SITTING

- TARAS RAD **UKR**
- MENGTAO LIU **CHN**
- ZIXU LIU **CHN**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT SITTING

- YERBOL KHAMITOV **KAZ**
- TARAS RAD **UKR**
- ZIXU LIU **CHN**



MEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL SITTING

- ZIXU LIU **CHN**
- ZHONGWU MAO **CHN**
- TARAS RAD **UKR**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT STANDING

- JIAYUN CAI **CHN**
- XIAOBIN LIU **CHN**
- MARCO MAIER **GER**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT STANDING

- JIAYUN CAI **CHN**
- GRYGORII VOVCHYNSKYI **UKR**
- MARCO MAIER **GER**



MEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL STANDING

- JIAYUN CAI **CHN**
- MARK ARENDZ **CAN**
- MARCO MAIER **GER**



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT VI

- OLEKSANDR KAZIK **UKR**
Guide: Serhii KUCHERIAVYI
- IAROSLAV RESHETYNsky **UKR**
Guide: Dmytro DRAHUN
- ANATOLII KOVALEVsky **UKR**
Guide: Oleksandr MUKSHYN



MEN 7.5KM SPRINT PURSUIT VI

- SHUANG YU **CHN**
Guide: Jincai SHANG
- OLEKSANDR KAZIK **UKR**
Guide: Serhii KUCHERIAVYI
- ANATOLII KOVALEVsky **UKR**
Guide: Oleksandr MUKSHYN



MEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL VI

- HESONG DANG **CHN**
Guide: Hongda LU
- MAKSYM MURASHKOVsky **UKR**
Guide: Vitaliy TRUSH
- DMYTRO SUIARKO **UKR**
Guide: Oleksandr NIKONOVYCH



IBU SEASON 2025 | 2026





TRIMESTER 1

NOVEMBER 2025

24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30

DECEMBER 2025

01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 1
OESTERSUND SWE

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 2
HOCHFILZEN AUT

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 3
ANNECY - LGB FRA



**IBU
WORLD CUP
BIATHLON**



LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
481 WORLD CUP POINTS



JOHAN-OLAV BOTN NOR
560 WORLD CUP POINTS

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 1 ÖSTERSUND SWE EARLY SEASON SURPRISES



Starting a season in the World Cup for the first time in his career, **Johan-Olav Botn** of Norway excelled in Östersund by winning the Individual and Sprint, finishing third in the Pursuit and leaving Sweden with a

commanding lead in the Total Score standings. **Suvi Minkkinen** made a splash with a Sprint victory and a second place in the Pursuit, becoming the first Finnish woman since Kaisa Mäkelä to wear the yellow

bib. **Dorothea Wierer** of Italy, **Lisa Theresa Hauser** of Austria and **Quentin Fillon Maillet** of France each achieved a win, making this one of the most dynamic season openings ever.



SINGLE MIXED RELAY (W+M)

1. SWEDEN
2. NORWAY
3. FRANCE

4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

1. FRANCE
2. ITALY
3. NORWAY

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

1. NORWAY
2. FRANCE
3. SWEDEN

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

1. FRANCE
2. ITALY
3. CZECHIA

MEN 20KM INDIVIDUAL

1. JOHAN-OLAV SMOERDAL BOTN NOR
2. MARTIN ULDAL NOR
3. SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON SWE

MEN 10KM SPRINT

1. JOHAN-OLAV SMOERDAL BOTN NOR
2. MARTIN ULDAL NOR
3. QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

1. QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET FRA
2. SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON SWE
3. JOHAN-OLAV SMOERDAL BOTN NOR

WOMEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

1. DOROTHEA WIERER ITA
2. SONJA LEINAMO FIN
3. CAMILLE BENED FRA

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

1. SUVI MINKKINEN FIN
2. ANNA MAGNUSSON SWE
3. OCEANE MICHELON FRA

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

1. LISA THERESA HAUSER AUT
2. SUVI MINKKINEN FIN
3. ANNA MAGNUSSON SWE

STAT OF THE WEEK JOHAN-OLAV BOTN BECAME THE FIRST MAN TO WIN THE FIRST TWO COMPETITIONS OF THE SEASON SINCE MARTIN FOURCADE ACHIEVED THE SAME FEAT IN 2016/2017, ALSO BY WINNING THE INDIVIDUAL AND SPRINT.

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 2 HOCHFILZEN AUT

BOTN KEEPS, MAGNUSSON TAKES THE YELLOW BIB



Tommaso Giacomel of Italy and **Lou Jeanmonnot** of France in the Sprint and **Eric Perrot** of France and **Lisa Vittozzi**

MEN 10KM SPRINT

1. TOMMASO GIACOMEL **ITA**
2. ERIC PERROT **FRA**
3. PHILIPP HORN **GER**

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

1. ERIC PERROT **FRA**
2. TOMMASO GIACOMEL **ITA**
3. JOHAN-OLAV SMOERDAL BOTN **NOR**

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

1. NORWAY
2. FRANCE
3. SWEDEN



of Italy in the Pursuit achieved their first World Cup wins of the 2025/2026 season. Yet it was **Johan-Olav Botn** of Norway (fourth in the Sprint, third in the Pursuit) and **Anna Magnusson** of Sweden (third in the Sprint, second in the Pursuit) who left Hochfilzen wearing the yellow bibs. Botn

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

1. LOU JEANMONNOT **FRA**
2. MAREN KIRKEEIDE **NOR**
3. ANNA MAGNUSSON **SWE**

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

1. LISA VITTOZZI **ITA**
2. ANNA MAGNUSSON **SWE**
3. MAREN KIRKEEIDE **NOR**

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

1. SWEDEN
2. NORWAY
3. GERMANY

remained the only athlete of the season with two individual wins. The Norwegian men scored their second win of the season and Sweden won the Women's Relay. **Maren Kirkeeide** and **Isak Frey**, both from Norway, retained the blue bib.

STAT OF THE WEEK LISA VITTOZZI OF ITALY BECAME ONLY THE FIFTH WOMAN IN HISTORY TO WIN THE PURSUIT, AFTER FINISHING OUTSIDE THE TOP 10 IN THE SPRINT. THE 2023/2024 TOTAL SCORE WINNER WAS 14TH AFTER THE SPRINT.

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 3 ANNECY - LE GRAND-BORNAND FRA

JEANMONNOT EMBRACES HOME

VENUE PRESSURE



Fighting for an Olympic Winter Games ticket and a secure spot on the World Cup team, **Vetle Sjaastad Christiansen** dug deep to win the Sprint - his hardest effort to date, as he described it. Unsure

if she could ever embrace the pressure of competing and winning in front of her home crowd, **Lou Jeanmonnot** rose to the occasion. She claimed victory in the Pursuit, finished second in both the Sprint and Mass Start and set a firm course for

her Total Score quest. **Maren Kirkeeide** secured the Women's Mass Start, marking her career-first World Cup triumph. Meanwhile, **Johan-Olav Botn** won again and headed home - for Christmas with a convincing lead in the overall standings.



MEN 10KM SPRINT

1. VETLE SJAASTAD CHRISTIANSEN NOR
2. JOHANNES DALE-SKJEVDAL NOR
3. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

1. HANNA OEBERG SWE
2. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
3. DOROTHEA WIERER ITA

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

1. JOHAN-OLAV SMOERDAL BOTN NOR
2. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA
3. JOHANNES DALE-SKJEVDAL NOR

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
2. SUVI MINKKINEN FIN
3. DOROTHEA WIERER ITA

MEN 15KM MASS START

1. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA
2. ERIC PERROT FRA
3. VETLE SJAASTAD CHRISTIANSEN NOR

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

1. MAREN KIRKEEIDE NOR
2. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
3. JUSTINE BRAISAZ-BOUCHET FRA

STAT OF THE WEEK JOHAN-OLAV BOTN BECAME THE FIRST MAN SINCE MARTIN FOURCADE IN 2016/2017 TO TAKE THE YELLOW BIB IN THE OPENING COMPETITIONS AND RETAIN IT THROUGH THE END OF TRIMESTER 1.



TRIMESTER 2

JANUARY 2026

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
NOVE MESTO NA MORAVE CZE



LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
848 WORLD CUP POINTS



ERIC PERROT FRA
834 WORLD CUP POINTS

GIACOMEL DIGS DEEP TO TOUCH THE SKY FOR HIS FRIEND



The tragic death of **Sivert Guttorm Bakken** over Christmas left the entire biathlon family searching for answers that never came. A minute of applause in tribute to the gentle soul and outstanding athlete

opened the competitions in Oberhof. There, **Tommaso Giacomel** - clearly on top form - but also fuelled by an otherworldly energy - clinched victories in both the Sprint and Pursuit, dedicating them to his

close friend, Sivert. On the women's side, **Elvira Oeberg** also secured back-to-back wins, adopting a new approach to competition: trusting her instincts and tuning out external noise.



MEN 10KM SPRINT

1. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA
2. PHILIPP NAWRATH GER
3. JOHANNES DALE-SKJEVDAL NOR

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

1. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA
2. MARTIN ULDAL NOR
3. SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON SWE

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

1. NORWAY
2. FRANCE
3. SWEDEN

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

1. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
2. SUVI MINKKINEN FIN
3. JULIA SIMON FRA

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

1. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE
2. SUVI MINKKINEN FIN
3. HANNA OEBERG SWE

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

1. FRANCE
2. NORWAY
3. GERMANY

STAT OF THE WEEK

FOR TOMMASO GIACOMEL, THIS MARKED HIS FIRST SPRINT-PURSUIT DOUBLE. THE FACT THAT HE WON BOTH RACES DESPITE MISSING 7 OF 30 SHOTS MADE HIS ACHIEVEMENT ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE.

SAMUELSSON'S FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON



Sebastian Samuelsson, the fastest skier of the winter, secured the Sprint victory for his first World Cup win of the season, while **Johannes Dale-Skjevdal** triumphed in the Pursuit. Samuelsson's teammate, **Hanna Oeberg**, claimed her second Sprint win of the season. Meanwhile, **Lou Jean-**

monnot continued to bolster her Total Score, finishing second in the Sprint and winning the Pursuit.

With **Emilien Jacquelin** and **Ingrid Landmark Tandrevold** resting during the Relay days, the French men's team and the Norwegian women's team each earned their first Relay wins of the season. As it turned out a few weeks later, the same Norwegian women's team went on to win an Olympic bronze.

STAT OF THE WEEK THE NORWEGIAN WOMEN'S TEAM EDGED OUT SECOND-PLACED ITALY BY A RAZOR-THIN MARGIN OF 0.9 SECONDS AND THIRD-PLACED SWEDEN BY 3 SECONDS, MARKING THE CLOSEST WOMEN'S RELAY FINISH IN IBU WORLD CUP HISTORY.

MEN 10KM SPRINT

1. SEBASTIAN SAMUELSSON SWE
2. TOMMASO GIACOMEL ITA
3. ISAK LEKNES FREY NOR

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

1. HANNA OEBERG SWE
2. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
3. LISA VITTOZZI ITA

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

1. JOHANNES DALE-SKJEVDAL NOR
2. ERIC PERROT FRA
3. MARTIN PONSILUOMA SWE

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

1. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
2. HANNA OEBERG SWE
3. CAMILLE BENED FRA

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

1. FRANCE
2. NORWAY
3. GERMANY

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

1. NORWAY
2. ITALY
3. SWEDEN

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 6 NOVE MESTO NA MORAVE CZE

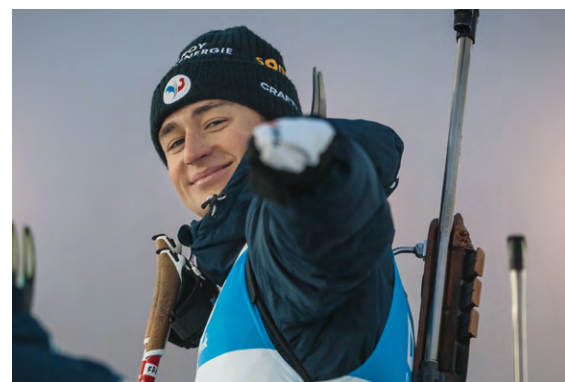
FRANCE HEADS TO CZECHIA AND DOMINATES



With the Norwegian team and parts of other major biathlon nations opting out of the World Cup in Nove Mesto na Morave to focus on high-altitude preparations for Milano Cortina 2026, France - true to form

- decided that no preparation beats competition itself. The French team delivered victories in the Short Individual (**Eric Perrot** and **Justine Braisaz-Bouchet**) and the Mass Start (**Eric Perrot** and **Julia Simon**).

Sebastian Samuelsson, **Martin Pon-siluoma** and **Tommaso Giacomel** also embraced this approach but ultimately lacked the energy to secure podium finishes. Finland claimed the Single Mixed Relay, while Italy won the Mixed Relay.



MEN 15KM SHORT INDIVIDUAL

1. ERIC PERROT **FRA**
2. EMILIEN JACQUELIN **FRA**
3. LUKAS HOFER **ITA**

MEN 15KM MASS START

1. ERIC PERROT **FRA**
2. CAMPBELL WRIGHT **USA**
3. SVERRE DAHLEN ASPENSEN **NOR**

SINGLE MIXED RELAY (W+M)

1. FINLAND
2. FRANCE
3. NORWAY

WOMEN 12.5KM SHORT INDIVIDUAL

1. JUSTINE BRAISAZ-BOUCHET **FRA**
2. LOU JEANMONNOT **FRA**
3. FRANZISKA PREUSS **GER**

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

1. JULIA SIMON **FRA**
2. OCEANE MICHELON **FRA**
3. LISA VITTOZZI **ITA**

4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

1. ITALY
2. FRANCE
3. CZECHIA

STAT OF THE WEEK TOMMASO GIACOMEL ANCHORED ITALY TO ITS THIRD WORLD CUP VICTORY IN THE MIXED RELAY, WITH THE PREVIOUS TWO WINS COMING IN KONTIOLAHTI (2017/2018) AND OESTERSUND (2019/2020).



TRIMESTER 3

MARCH 2026

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 7
KONTIOLAHTI FIN

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 8
OTEPAA EST

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 9
OSLO HOLMENKOLLEN NOR



**IBU
WORLD CUP
BIATHLON**



LOU JEANMONNOT FRA
1,135 WORLD CUP POINTS



ERIC PERROT FRA
1,263 WORLD CUP POINTS

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 7 KONTIOLAHTI FIN SWEDISH WOMEN'S WEEK



With **Elvira Oeberg** winning the Individual and her sister **Hanna** finishing second, followed by Elvira taking second place and **Anna Magnusson** third in the Mass Start -

and a commanding victory in the Women's Relay - Sweden's women bounced back after their disappointing performance at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, where they won only a silver medal in the Relay. **Eric Perrot** claimed the Individual victory and finished second in the

Mass Start, dashing the hopes of the rest of the field to challenge him seriously for the Total Score win in the final two weeks of the season. **Sturla Holm Laegreid**, meanwhile, continued his stunning form from Milano Cortina 2026 by swapping podium places with Perrot.



MEN 20KM INDIVIDUAL

1. ERIC PERROT **FRA**
2. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID **NOR**
3. VETLE SJAASTAD CHRISTIANSEN **NOR**

WOMEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

1. ELVIRA OEBERG **SWE**
2. HANNA OEBERG **SWE**
3. PAULINA BATOVSKA FIALKOVA **SVK**

MEN 15KM MASS START

1. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID **NOR**
2. ERIC PERROT **FRA**
3. VETLE SJAASTAD CHRISTIANSEN **NOR**

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

1. JULIA SIMON **FRA**
2. ELVIRA OEBERG **SWE**
3. ANNA MAGNUSSON **SWE**

MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

1. NORWAY
2. FRANCE
3. SWEDEN

WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

1. SWEDEN
2. FRANCE
3. NORWAY

STAT OF THE WEEK WITH HER VICTORY IN THE INDIVIDUAL, ELVIRA OEBERG COMPLETED HER SET OF WORLD CUP WINS ACROSS ALL DISCIPLINES.

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 8 OTEPÄÄ EST

LAEGREID GOES ALL IN



During the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, **Sturla Holm Laegreid** stunned the entire country - and, as it turned out, even himself - with perhaps

MEN 10KM SPRINT

1. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
2. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA
3. PHILIPP NAWRATH GER

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

1. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
2. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA
3. MARTIN ULDAL NOR

SINGLE MIXED RELAY (W+M)

1. NORWAY
2. SWEDEN
3. FINLAND



going too public on public TV. Yet he found solace in extreme focus, bordering on pain, and began winning relentlessly.. Defying even the stormy winds of Estonia, the 2024/2025 Total Score champion triumphed in both the Sprint and Pursuit. He also partnered with **Karoline Offigstad Knotten** to secure a Single Mixed Relay victory. **Julia Simon** claimed the Sprint,

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

1. JULIA SIMON FRA
2. LISA VITTOZZI ITA
3. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

1. LISA VITTOZZI ITA
2. SUVI MINKKINEN FIN
3. LOU JEANMONNOT FRA

4 X 6KM MIXED RELAY (W+M)

1. SWEDEN
2. SWITZERLAND
3. UNITED STATES

Lisa Vitozzi won the Pursuit and Sweden took the Mixed Relay - a race filled with stunning twists, a record number of missed shots and a history-making third-place podium finish for the U.S. relay team. **Lou Jeanmonnot** was third twice and could travel to Oslo feeling good about clinching the Total Score title.

STAT OF THE WEEK

IN THE MEN'S PURSUIT, WHERE 60 ATHLETES MISSED A COMBINED 356 SHOTS (AN AVERAGE OF 6 PER ATHLETE), STURLA LAEGREID MISSED JUST ONE AND WON BY 2:33.4 AHEAD OF EMILIEN JACQUELIN. THE PREVIOUS LARGEST WINNING GAP (2:08.1) WAS SET BY OLE EINAR BJOERNDALLEN IN HOCHFILZEN DURING THE 2006/2007 SEASON.

BMW IBU WORLD CUP 9 OSLO HOLMENKOLLEN NOR

JEANMONNOT AND PERROT CROWNED IN OSLO



Hanna Oeberg and **Sturla Holm Laegreid** still had enough energy to shine at the final World Cup in Oslo Holmenkollen, despite the warm and windy conditions.



Hanna Oeberg won both the Sprint and Pursuit and finished second in the Mass Start, while Laegreid secured a Sprint-Pursuit double and placed fourth in the Mass Start. **Lisa Vittozzi** and **Johan-Olav Botn** claimed victories in the Mass Start. Botn completed a full circle in his first World Cup season, having won the open-

ing Individual race in Oestersund and the final Mass Start in Oslo, with an Olympic gold in the Individual in between. After narrowly missing out on the Total Score title for two consecutive seasons, **Lou Jeanmonnot** was finally crowned the best athlete of the season. Her teammate, **Eric Perrot**, secured the men's title.



MEN 10KM SPRINT

1. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
2. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA
3. ERIC PERROT FRA

WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

1. HANNA OEBERG SWE
2. LISA VITTOZZI ITA
3. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE

MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

1. STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR
2. ERIC PERROT FRA
3. EMILIEN JACQUELIN FRA

WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

1. HANNA OEBERG SWE
2. JULIA SIMON FRA
3. ELVIRA OEBERG SWE

MEN 15KM MASS START

1. JOHAN-OLAV SMOERDAL BOTN NOR
2. PHILIPP NAWRATH GER
3. ERIC PERROT FRA

WOMEN 12.5KM MASS START

1. LISA VITTOZZI ITA
2. HANNA OEBERG SWE
3. TEREZA VOBORNIKOVA CZE

STAT OF THE SEASON FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PATRICE BAILLY-SALINS, RAPHAËL POIRÉE, MARTIN FOURCADE AND QUENTIN FILLON MAILLET, ERIC PERROT BECAME THE FIFTH FRENCHMAN TO WIN THE TOTAL SCORE TROPHY. LOU JEANMONNOT JOINED THE RANKS OF ANNE BRIAND, EMMANUELLE CLARET, SANDRINE BAILLY AND JULIA SIMON.

SCORE WINNERS SEASON 2025/2026



TOTAL, INDIVIDUAL, SPRINT AND PURSUIT SCORE WINNER
LOU JEANMONNOT FRA



TOTAL, INDIVIDUAL, PURSUIT AND MASS START SCORE WINNER
ERIC PERROT FRA



MASS START SCORE WINNER
JULIA SIMON FRA



SPRINT SCORE WINNER
STURLA HOLM LAEGREID NOR



U23 SCORE WINNER
MAREN KIRKEEIDE NOR



U23 SCORE WINNER
ISAK LEKNES FREY NOR



RELAY MEN, MIXED RELAY AND MEN'S NATIONS CUP SCORE WINNER
NORWAY



WOMEN'S NATIONS CUP SCORE WINNER
SWEDEN



RELAY WOMEN CUP SCORE WINNER
FRANCE

RETIREMENTS 2025/2026



PAULINA BATOVSKA FILAKOVA SVK
LISA THERESA HAUSER AUT
KAJA MARIC SLO
SUSI MEINEN SUI
FRANZISKA PREUSS GER
MARIT ISHOL SKOGAN NOR
TEREZA VINKLARKOVA CZE
DOROTHEA WIERER ITA



JAKE BROWN USA
DANIELE CAPPELLARI ITA
SIMON EDER AUT
ANTON IVARSSON SWE
TOMAS KAUKENAS LTU
VETLE PAULSEN NOR
PAUL SCHOMMER USA
ADAM VACLAVIK CZE

**THANK YOU
AND FAREWELL.**

IBU OPEN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 SJUSJOEN NOR

FRANCE ON TOP OF THE GAME

French athletes dominated the IBU Open European Championships 2026 in the winter wonderland of Sjusjoen, Norway, securing five gold medals and multiple podium finishes across all disciplines. Norway and Germany also delivered standout performances, with Norway's Isak Leknes Frey and France's Gilonne Guigonnat emerging as the most decorated athletes of the event.

SPRINT

FRENCH DOMINANCE

In the Sprint events at the IBU Open European Championships 2026, Damien Levet of France dominated the men's race with a flawless 10/10 shooting and the fastest ski time, crossing the finish line in 25:02.1 to claim gold, followed by Isak Leknes Frey of Norway in second and Gaetan Paturel of France in third. Meanwhile, Gilonne Guigonnat led a French sweep in the Women's Sprint, winning gold ahead of teammates Celia Henaff and Sophie Chauveau, who secured silver and bronze, respectively.

PURSUIT

DOUBLE GOLD FOR GUIGONNAT AND FREY'S REDEMPTION

In the Pursuit events at the IBU Open European Championships 2026, Isak Leknes Frey of Norway claimed his first gold of the championships, overcoming a challenging

final shooting to finish in 34:44.7, with Leonhard Pfund and Simon Kaiser of Germany taking silver and bronze, respectively. Meanwhile, Gilonne Guigonnat of France dominated the Women's Pursuit, securing a Sprint-Pursuit double with a winning time of 32:07.5, while Celia Henaff and Sophie Chauveau of France repeated their Sprint successes, finishing second and third.

RELAYS

FRANCE, NORWAY AND GERMANY SWAP PODIUM PLACES

In the Relay events at the IBU Open European Championships 2026, Norway's men's team claimed gold in 1:17:08.4, with Germany earning silver and France taking bronze. Meanwhile, France's women's team dominated the competition, winning gold in 1:12:53.1, while Germany and Norway secured second and third places, respectively.

INDIVIDUAL

PRECISION PAYS OFF

In the Individual events at the IBU Open European Championships 2026, Antonin Guigonnat of France delivered a flawless performance, hitting all 20 targets to win gold in 50:08.9, with Isak Leknes Frey of Norway and Valentin Lejeune of France securing silver and bronze. In the women's race, Anastasiya Merkushyna of Ukraine claimed her fourth Individual title at the Open European Championships, finishing in 45:39.9, while Samuela Comola of Italy and Voldiya Galmace-Paulin of France rounded out the podium.



MEN 20KM INDIVIDUAL

- ANTONIN GUIGONNAT FRA
- ISAK LEKNES FREY NOR
- VALENTIN LEJEUNE FRA



WOMEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

- ANASTASIYA MERKUSHYNA UKR
- SAMUELA COMOLA ITA
- VOLDIYA GALMACE-PAULIN FRA





IBU OPEN
EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS
BIATHLON



SJUSJØEN
2026



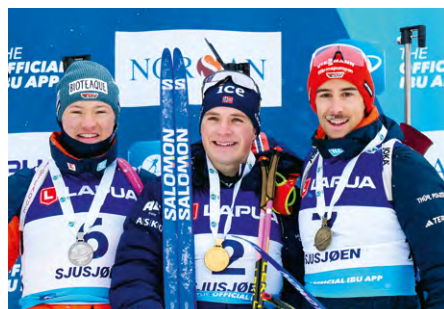
MEDAL STANDINGS

NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1. FRANCE	5	2	6	13
2. NORWAY	2	2	1	5
3. UKRAINE	1	-	-	1
4. GERMANY	-	3	1	4
5. ITALY	-	1	-	1



MEN 10KM SPRINT

- DAMIEN LEVET **FRA**
- ISAK LEKNES FREY **NOR**
- GAETAN PATUREL **FRA**



MEN 12.5KM PURSUIT

- ISAK LEKNES FREY **NOR**
- LEONHARD PFUND **GER**
- SIMON KAISER **GER**



MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- NORWAY
- GERMANY
- FRANCE



WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- GILONNE GUIGNONNAT **FRA**
- CELIA HENAFF **FRA**
- SOPHIE CHAUVEAU **FRA**



WOMEN 10KM PURSUIT

- GILONNE GUIGNONNAT **FRA**
- CELIA HENAFF **FRA**
- SOPHIE CHAUVEAU **FRA**



WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- FRANCE
- GERMANY
- NORWAY



...THE BEST OF THE DOMINANT FRENCH

The IBU Cup season 2025/2026 was defined by France's overwhelming success. French athletes topped the Women's and Men's Total Score, claimed first place in the IBU Cup Nations Score and dominated the Relay Score. Their supremacy extended to all discipline-specific standings, with the sole exceptions being the Men's Individual and Mass Start events.



The IBU Cup season 2025/2026 saw an unprecedented display of dominance by the French women's team, who secured the top five positions in the Total Score standings. Leading the charge was **Paula Botet**, who claimed the title with 1,022 points. Botet's season was defined by a remarkable start, as she won four of the first six competitions, amassing 462 points - nearly 42% of her final total. This strong early performance proved crucial, as she later faced challenges in the second half of the season, including a calf injury that affected her form. Notably, Botet skipped the Lenzerheide week to compete at the BMW IBU World Cup in Annecy-Le Grand Bornand, yet still man-

aged to secure the title with six victories across 20 competitions.

Behind Botet, **Voldiya Galmace-Paulin** finished second with 953 points, while **Amandine Mengin** rounded out the French podium in third place with 910 points. The depth of the French team was further highlighted by their collective success the French women's team competitors won 13 of the 23 races (56.5%) in the IBU Cup.

The 2025/2026 IBU Cup Men's Total Score concluded with a dramatic finale in Lake Placid, USA, where Gaetan Paturel of France emerged as the champion with 955 points, narrowly edging out his team-

mate and close friend **Damien Levet**, who finished second with 897 points. Both Paturel and Levet participated in all 23 races of the season, each securing two victories along the way.

Completing the all-French podium was **Antonin Guigonnat**, who retired at the end of the season, finishing third with 743 points. Guigonnat missed the opening week in Obertilliach due to his participation in the BMW IBU World Cup in Oestersund, but still managed to lead the field in wins, claiming four victories - more than any other competitor. Norway's **Sverre Dahlen Aspenes** followed with three wins, the second-highest tally of the season.



IBU CUP TOTAL, SPRINT AND PURSUIT
SCORE WINNER
PAULA BOTET FRA



IBU CUP INDIVIDUAL SCORE WINNER
VOLDIYA GALMACE-PAULIN FRA



IBU CUP MASS START SCORE WINNER
AMANDINE MENGIN FRA



IBU CUP TOTAL, SPRINT AND
PURSUIT SCORE WINNER
GAETAN PATUREL FRA



IBU CUP INDIVIDUAL SCORE WINNER
ELIAS SEIDL GER



IBU CUP MASS START SCORE WINNER
MARTIN NEVLAND NOR



IBU CUP MEN AND WOMEN
RELAY SCORE WINNER
FRANCE

IBU CUP MEN AND WOMEN
NATIONS SCORE WINNER
FRANCE



IBU YOUTH JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 ARBER GER FUTURE STARS SHINE IN ARBER

The IBU Youth Junior World Championships in Arber, Germany, showcased the next generation of biathlon talent, with 10 nations sharing the medals. France led the standings, while several rising stars delivered standout performances across youth and junior competitions.

A total of 10 nations won medals at the IBU Youth Junior World Championships in Arber, with France topping the medal table with five medals, including two golds. Latvia followed as the second most decorated nation, also claiming two gold medals and four in total.

At just 16, Latvia's **Rihards Lozbers** stood out among youth athletes, already boasting seven World Cup starts and an Olympic Winter Games appearance, where he finished 32nd in the Sprint at Milano Cortina 2026. He dominated the youth men's field with outstanding skiing, becoming the only athlete in his category to win a medal in all three individual competitions, including gold in the Individual and - as a bonus - gold in the Junior Mixed Relay for his fourth medal. Among youth women, **Michaela Strakova** of Slovakia impressed with gold medals in the Individual and Sprint, while Norway's



Hanna Volestad secured two individual and one Mixed Relay silver medals, as well as a Relay gold.

In the junior ranks, Sweden's **Philip Lindkvist-Floetten** matched Lozbers' consistency, winning medals in all three individual events, including gold in the Indi-

vidual, silver in the Sprint and bronze in the Mass Start 60. Latvia's **Estere Volfa** claimed gold in the Sprint and Mixed Relay and silver in the Mass Start 60. Ukraine's **Oleksandra Merkushyna** earned gold in the Mass Start 60, silver in the Individual and bronze with the Relay team.



MEDAL STANDINGS

NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1. LATVIA	3	3	1	7
2. SLOVAKIA	3	-	-	3
3. NORWAY	2	5	1	8
4. FRANCE	2	4	1	7
5. AUSTRIA	2	1	2	5
6. UKRAINE	1	2	3	6
7. SWEDEN	1	1	1	3
8. GERMANY	1	-	2	3
9. BULGARIA	1	-	1	2
9. ITALY	1	-	1	2
11. POLAND	1	-	-	1
12. FINLAND	-	1	3	4
13. ESTONIA	-	1	2	3



YOUTH WOMEN 10KM INDIVIDUAL

- MICHAELA STRAKOVA SVK
- HANNA VOELSTAD NOR
- VIKTORIIA KHVOSTENKO UKR

YOUTH WOMEN 6KM SPRINT

- MICHAELA STRAKOVA SVK
- HANNA VOELSTAD NOR
- SELINA GANNER AUT

YOUTH WOMEN 9KM MASS START 60

- SELINA GANNER AUT
- ADELE OUVRIER BUFFET FRA
- ILVY GIESTHEUER AUT



YOUTH MEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL

- RIHARDS LOZBERS LAT
- TARAS TARASIUK UKR
- GEORGI DZHORGOV FRA

YOUTH MEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- MARKUS SKLENARIK SVK
- RIHARDS LOZBERS LAT
- HANNES LIPFERT GER

YOUTH MEN 12KM MASS START 60

- GEORGI DZHORGOV BUL
- RIHARDS LOZBERS LAT
- TUOMAS LATVALAHTI FIN



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

- AUSTRIA
- NORWAY
- FINLAND

YOUTH WOMEN 3 X 6KM RELAY

- NORWAY
- FRANCE
- UKRAINE

YOUTH MEN 3 X 7.5KM RELAY

- ITALY
- AUSTRIA
- ESTONIA



JUNIOR WOMEN 12.5KM INDIVIDUAL

- THEMICE FONTAINE FRA
- OLEKSANDRA MERKUSHYNA UKR
- INKA HAMALEINEN FIN

JUNIOR WOMEN 7.5KM SPRINT

- ESTERE VOLFA LAT
- INKA HAMALAINEN FIN
- SIDNEY WUESTLING GER

JUNIOR WOMEN 9KM MASS START 60

- OLEKSANDRA MERKUSHYNA UKR
- ESTERE VOLFA LAT
- ELZA BLEIDELE LAT



JUNIOR MEN 15KM INDIVIDUAL

- PHILIP LINDKVIST-FLOETTEN SWE
- LEO CARLIER FRA
- JAKOB CULBIN EST

JUNIOR MEN 10KM SPRINT

- GRZEGORZ GALICA POL
- PHILIP LINDKVIST-FLOETTEN SWE
- KASPER KALKENBERG NOR

JUNIOR MEN 12KM MASS START 60

- KASPAR KALKENBERG NOR
- JAKOB KULBIN EST
- PHILIP LINDKVIST-FLOETTEN SWE



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

- LATVIA
- NORWAY
- FRANCE

JUNIOR WOMEN 4 X 6KM RELAY

- GERMANY
- FRANCE
- UKRAINE

JUNIOR MEN 4 X 7.5KM RELAY

- FRANCE
- NORWAY
- ITALY

VOLFA AND MARCHL LIFT THE BIG CRYSTAL GLOBE

Estere Volfa of Latvia, who turned 21 in April 2026 and Thomas Marchl of Austria, who turned 21 in February 2026, won the Junior IBU Cup Total Score trophies. While Volfa competed across multiple IBU levels and also left her mark at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, Marchl focused mainly on the IBU Junior Cup.

Estere Volfa made her IBU World Cup debut in the Oberhof Sprint in the 2024/2025 season and has since started more than 20 times in biathlon's elite circuit. The Latvian did more than just participate at the Winter Games, finishing 16th in the Sprint and 11th in the Pursuit; she also enjoyed a very successful IBU Junior World Championships in Arber before closing the season with ninth place in the Sprint in Otepää - her first World Cup Top 10. Volfa competed in 9 of 14 IBU Junior Cup events, winning four times and also secured the Sprint and Mass Start Score titles.

There were eight different winners among the Junior Women. France had three different winners, more than any other nation.

Thomas Marchl claimed Sprint victories in Goms and Madonna for his two wins (adding three second-place finishes) in the IBU Junior Cup, where he competed in all 14 events. Like Volfa, he also secured the Sprint and Mass Start Score titles.

There were 10 different winners among the Junior Men, with Marchl, **Matija Legović** of Croatia, **Vladimir Kocmanek** of Czechia and **Camille Grataloup-Manissolle** of France winning twice. Czechia had three different winners, more than any other country.

Ukraine's Junior Women and Czechia's Junior Men proved to be the most consistent teams, celebrating Relay Score and Nations Cup victories.





IBU JUNIOR CUP TOTAL AND MASS
START SCORE WINNER
ESTERE VOLFA LAT



IBU JUNIOR CUP INDIVIDUAL
SCORE WINNER
CARLOTTA GAUTERO ITA



IBU JUNIOR CUP SPRINT
SCORE WINNER
TETITANA TERASIUK UKR



IBU JUNIOR CUP TOTAL, SPRINT AND
MASS START SCORE WINNER
THOMAS MARCHL AUT



IBU JUNIOR CUP INDIVIDUAL
SCORE WINNER
CAMILLE GRATALOU-PANISSOLLE FRA



IBU JUNIOR CUP WOMEN NATIONS AND RELAY SCORE WINNER
UKRAINE



IBU JUNIOR CUP MEN NATIONS AND RELAY SCORE WINNER
CZECHIA

PARA BIATHLON'S BIG SEASON

The Para Biathlon World Cup season 2025/2026 offered an early glimpse of the competition to come at the Paralympic Winter Games. Across nine races in Canmore, Notschrei and Jakuszyce, athletes battled for Crystal Globes in a season marked by record participation, close title races and several first-time overall winners.

The Para Biathlon World Cup season 2025/2026 was hosted in Canmore, Canada, Notschrei, Germany and Jakuszyce, Poland. Nine races counted towards the Total Score standings, with each competition week featuring Sprint, Individual and Sprint Pursuit events – the same programme that was to be used at the Paralympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

With the season centred around the Paralympic Winter Games, the Crystal Globes were awarded unusually early, in January. The importance of the Paralympic Winter Games year was reflected in participation figures, with more than 100 athletes compe-

ting internationally for the first time and more than 20 National Federations represented by debuting athletes.

One of the season's major storylines was the return of **Oksana Masters** after missing the previous winter through injury. The American claimed four victories, but missing one race in Notschrei allowed **Anja Wicker** of Germany to successfully defend the women's sitting Total Score title. In the men's sitting category, **Derek Zaplotinsky** of Canada secured the Total Score title through remarkable consistency despite not reaching the podium all season.

The men's standing competition produced the closest battle of the winter, with **Mark Arendz** of Canada finishing just four points ahead of **Benjamin Daviet** of France in the final Total Score standings. Canada also celebrated success through **Natalie Wilkie**, who won six races and claimed her first Crystal Globe.

Germany's **Nico Messinger** and **Johanna Recktenwald** secured their first overall titles in the vision impaired category. Their consistency throughout the season helped Germany win the IBU Para Biathlon World Cup ahead of Canada.





TOTAL SCORE WINNER – SITTING MEN

DEREK ZAPLOTINSKY CAN

Consistency paid off as he captured the men's sitting overall title.

TOTAL SCORE WINNER – SITTING WOMEN

ANJA WICKER GER

Successfully defended the women's sitting Crystal Globe despite the strong return of Oksana Masters.

TOTAL SCORE WINNER – STANDING MEN

MARK ARENDZ CAN

Claimed the men's standing Total Score title after the closest battle of the season.

TOTAL SCORE WINNER – STANDING WOMEN

NATALIE WILKIE CAN

Six victories secured the Canadian's first Para biathlon Crystal Globe.

TOTAL SCORE WINNER – VI MEN

NICO MESSINGER GER

First-time overall winner in the vision impaired category.

TOTAL SCORE WINNER – VI WOMEN

JOHANNA RECKTENWALD GER

First-time overall winner in the vision impaired category.

PARA BIATHLON NATIONS CUP SCORE WINNER

GERMANY

Strong performances throughout the winter secured the IBU Para Biathlon World Cup.

INSIDE THE **IBU**



ABOUT THE IBU

The International Biathlon Union (IBU) is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the international governing body for the Olympic sport of biathlon. Headquartered in Anif bei Salzburg, the IBU is a non-profit organisation registered in Austria that regulates the sport and oversees the competition organisation worldwide. In cooperation with its 64 member National Federations (NFs), the IBU uses competitions, events, programmes and other activities to promote and develop participation in biathlon throughout the world.

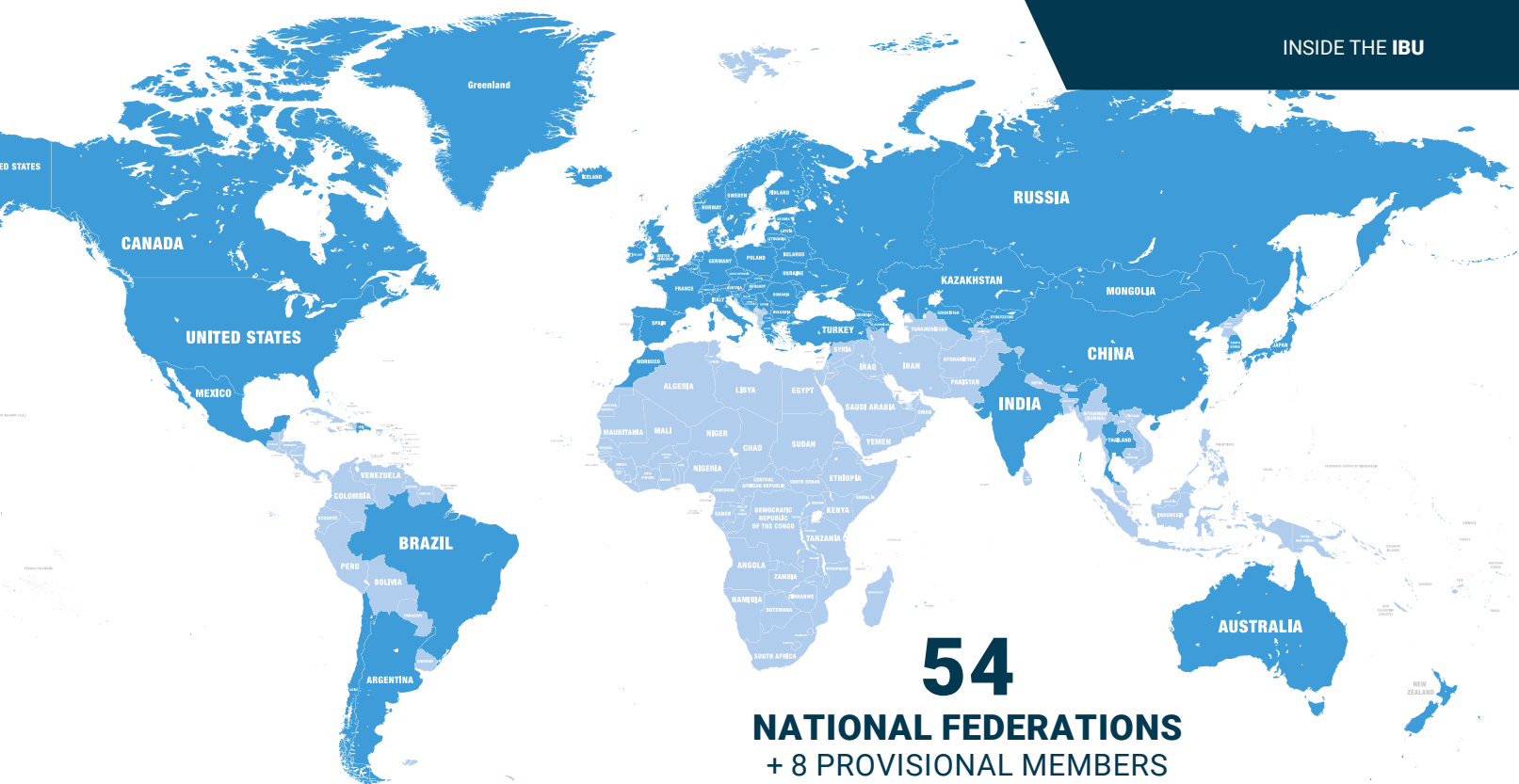
HEADQUARTERS International Biathlon Union
Sonystraße 20, 5081 Anif b.Salzburg, Austria

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.





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NATIONAL FEDERATIONS + 8 PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

01	ARG	Argentina
02	ARM	Armenia
03	AUS	Australia
04	AUT	Austria
05	BEL	Belgium
06	BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
07	BRA	Brazil
08	BUL	Bulgaria
09	CAN	Canada
10	CHI	Chile
11	CHN	China
12	CRO	Croatia
13	CYP	Cyprus
14	CZE	Czechia
15	DEN	Denmark
16	ESP	Spain
17	EST	Estonia
18	FIN	Finland
19	FRA	France
20	GBR	Great Britain
21	GEO	Georgia
22	GER	Germany
23	GRE	Greece

24	GRL	Greenland
25	HUN	Hungary
26	IND	India
27	IRL	Ireland
28	ITA	Italy
29	JPN	Japan
30	KAZ	Kazakhstan
31	KGZ	Kyrgyzstan
32	KOR	Korea
33	LAT	Latvia
34	LEB	Lebanon
35	LIE	Liechtenstein
36	LTU	Lithuania
37	MDA	Moldova
38	MGL	Mongolia
39	MKD	North Macedonia
40	NED	Netherlands
41	NOR	Norway
42	NZL	New Zealand
43	POL	Poland
44	ROU	Romania
45	SLO	Slovenia
46	SRB	Serbia

47	SUI	Switzerland
48	SVK	Slovakia
49	SWE	Sweden
50	TPE	Chinese Taipei
51	TUR	Türkiye
52	UKR	Ukraine
53	USA	USA
54	UZB	Uzbekistan

PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

AND	Andorra
DOM	Dominican Republic
LUX	Luxembourg
ISL	Iceland
MEX	Mexico
MAR	Morocco
PRT	Portugal
THA	Thailand

SUSPENDED MEMBERS

BLR	Belarus
RUS	Russia

THE STRATEGIC WORK ON **TARGET26** AND **TARGET2030** BUILDING CREDIBILITY ON THE WORLD STAGE

There was a headline in one of the major German newspapers that summed up the institutional crisis of the IBU in April 2018: “Biathlon is sinking into a swamp.” The strategic turnaround in the IBU began after the election of the new Executive Board at the 13TH Ordinary IBU Congress in September 2018. This was an extensive process involving meetings with all stakeholders, and the first-ever strategic plan, Target 26, for the IBU was approved at the Extraordinary IBU Congress in October 2019.

TARGET26 FOCUSED ON FIVE DISTINCT TARGETS:

EMPOWERING
OUR
FEDERATIONS

ENHANCING
OUR
EVENTS

EXTENDING
OUR
REACH

UPGRADING
OUR
GOVERNANCE

INNOVATING
OUR
FUTURE



IT'S ALWAYS ALLOWED TO BE AHEAD OF PLAN!

With the support of the entire biathlon family, the work progressed exceptionally well, allowing a final

report to be presented at the IBU Congress in 2024, well ahead of schedule.

The next step, **Target 2030**, was also presented and approved at the same Congress; two years of implementation have since been completed.



HIGHLIGHTS

NEW CONSTITUTION

From upgrading governance to implementing good governance, the IBU is now one of the leading International Federations in this process:

- Established the **Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU)** with a separate Board to handle all integrity-related matters, including anti-doping, ethical compliance breaches, safeguarding, betting-related issues and competition manipulation.
- Athlete representative appointed as an **Executive Board member**.
- Introduced **term limits** for the Executive Board.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Transformed the IBU from an International Federation with a strong sporting product but governance challenges into a respected International Federation with robust governance structures, establishing a lasting foundation for future growth.

NEW DEPARTMENTS

Established a **Development Department** and a **Finance Department**, as well as dedicated resources for **sustainability and strategy**.

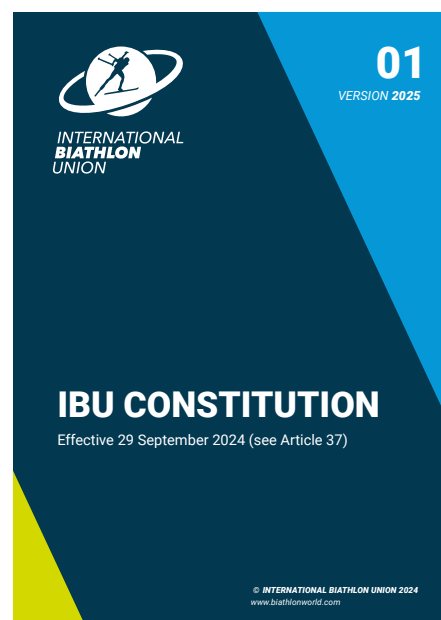
- Strengthened **Sport & Event Department** and **Communication Department teams**.
- **Marketing** is the next area to be developed, transitioning from outsourcing to in-house management.

COMMERCIAL GROWTH

Achieved the objective of “ensuring that the interest and commercial value of biathlon grow - **doubling the income for the IBU**”.

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

Recognised as a leader among International Federations, culminating in the **IOC Climate Action Award 2025** in the International Federations category for driving new sustainability standards in sport.



DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

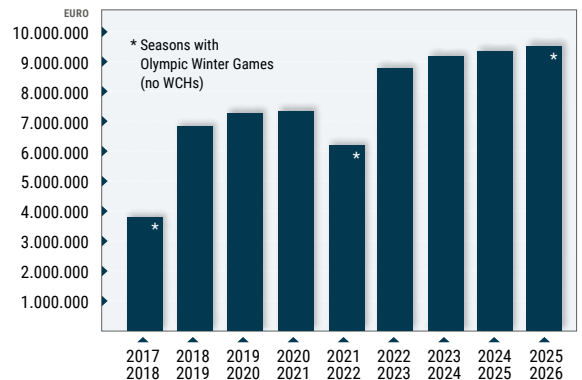
- Launched the **IBU Academy**, offering structured coach education, webinars, and training across a wide range of areas. Coaches' education course participation is now over 400.
- Implemented **well-structured Development Programmes**, including a more effective system and increased financial support for all member federations.
- Initiated **Biathlon 4 All** to popularise the sport, increasing athlete numbers and fan activation.

EVENT ENHANCEMENTS:

- Introduced **IBU Regional Events** to boost participation among young athletes and expand the IBU competition structure.
- Improved fan and athlete experiences through increased financial support for OCs and higher prize money for athletes.



PRIZE MONEY DEVELOPMENT FOR 2017/2018 - 2025/2026



TARGET2030

Already two years underway, with established **underlying principles**, **overall directional objectives** and **strategic areas** focusing on:



The IBU's strategic plan is not a book on the shelf - it's a way of living in the biathlon family!

OLLE DAHLIN IBU PRESIDENT

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION:

- Established a **fully integrated IBU Digital Ecosystem**.
- Achieved a **transformational leap in digital performance** during the Olympic period, making biathlon the most engaging single discipline on social media at the Olympic Games.

INNOVATION:

- Launched **Loop One Biathlon Opening Festival**, a city event designed to reach new audiences.

PARA-BIATHLON:

- Took over governance from the IPC and began a development journey to elevate Para biathlon to a new level.
- Record-setting participation in Paralympic Games Biathlon events.



EMPOWERING
OUR
FEDERATIONS

CLOSING THE
COMPETITION GAP

ENHANCING
OUR
EVENTS

DEVELOPMENT OF A **MODERN,
SUSTAINABLE SPORT AND EVENT
CONCEPT**

INNOVATING
OUR
FUTURE

ANALYSING THE **IBU'S
COMMERCIAL MODEL**

ACROSS ALL
FIVE
TARGETS

INTEGRATION OF
UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

JUSTICE RESTORED THROUGH INTEGRITY

The reallocation of medals across multiple IBU World Championships and Olympic Winter Games stands as the final outcome of the IBU leadership's and the Biathlon Integrity Unit's painstakingly precise and committed work of eight years. These medal ceremonies, held during the 2025/2026 season, honoured athletes and teams whose achievements were rightfully restored following anti-doping violations. Each event underscored the IBU's dedication to fairness, transparency and the integrity of biathlon. The reallocations also served as a powerful reminder of the sport's values and the importance of upholding them.



MEDAL REALLOCATION CEREMONIES

- On 7 December 2025, the Swedish men's relay team - **Fredrik Lindström, Magnus Jonsson, Carl Johan Bergman** and **Björn Ferry** - received their reallocated bronze medals from the 2011 IBU World Championships during a public ceremony in Oestersund, Sweden, as part of the BMW IBU World Cup.



- On 13 December 2025, in Hochfilzen, Austria, **Christoph Sumann** was awarded the 2009/2010 World Cup Men's Mass Start Score trophy, while the Ukrainian men's relay team – **Olexander Bilanenko, Andriy Deryzemlya, Sergii Semenov** and **Serguei Sednev** – received their 2011 IBU World Championships silver medals. The team was represented by former athlete Sergii Semenov and Ukrainian National Federation President Ivan Krulko. On 28 March 2026, during the Ukrainian National Championships, Bilanenko and Sednev were presented with their medals by IBU President Olle Dahlin, while Deryzemlya could not attend the ceremony.

- On 20 December 2025, in Annecy-Le Grand Bornand, France, Team France - **Simon Fourcade, Martin Fourcade, Alexis Boeuf, Lois Habert** and **Stéphane Bouthiaux** - was awarded the 2011/2012 Men's World Cup Nations Cup trophy.
- On 15 January 2026, **Lukas Hofer** of Italy received the Men's Mass Start silver medal from the 2011 IBU World Championships during a ceremony in Ruhpolding, Germany.

- A historic Olympic medal reallocation ceremony took place on 15 February 2026 in Antholz-Anterselva, Italy, during Milano Cortina 2026. **Martin Fourcade** of France and the German men's team were awarded their Vancouver 2010 Olympic Mass Start and Sochi 2014 Olympic Relay gold medals. Austria and Norway were awarded Sochi 2014 Olympic Relay silver and bronze medals. **Pavol Hurajt** of Slovakia and **Christoph Sumann** of Austria were awarded the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Mass Start silver and bronze medals.

- Another important medal reallocation ceremony took place on 2 March at Skidskyttekampen in Stockholm, where the Swedish relay team - **Fredrik Lindström, Mattias Nilsson, Carl-Johan Bergman**, and **Björn Ferry** - were awarded their Vancouver 2010 Olympic Relay bronze medals.

- Finally, on 21 March 2026, in Holmenkollen, Norway, **Tarjei Bø** of Norway received the Men's Mass Start bronze Medal from the 2011 World Championships, and Team Norway was awarded the 2012/2013 Men's Nations Cup Score and Men's Relay Score globes.



All reallocations followed the annulment of Evgeny Ustyugov's results due to anti-doping violations, as announced by the International Biathlon Union (IBU).



IBU EXECUTIVE BOARD



ABOUT THE IBU EXECUTIVE BOARD

The International Biathlon Union (IBU) Executive Board convened four times throughout 2025 and early 2026 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 Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. Between formal meetings, informal virtual EB gatherings were held for information exchange, briefings and updates.

176TH IBU EB MEETING

24-25 JUNE 2025; ANIF, AUSTRIA

177TH IBU EB MEETING

10-11 SEPTEMBER 2025; BERCHTESGADEN, GERMANY

178TH IBU EB MEETING

19-21 NOVEMBER 2025; ANIF, AUSTRIA

179TH IBU EB MEETING

09-10 MARCH 2026; VAL DI FEMME, ITALY

OLLE DAHLIN
PRESIDENT

JIRI HAMZA
VICE PRESIDENT

CHRISTIAN SCHERER
TREASURER

TORE BOYGARD
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

EKATERINA DAFOVSKA
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

LENA HAECKI-GROSS *
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

TIM FARCNIK
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

FABIEN SAGUEZ
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

NATHALIE SANTER
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

FRANZ STEINLE
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

MAX COBB **
SECRETARY GENERAL

* IBU Athletes' Committee Representative with voting rights

** IBU Secretary General with no voting rights

UNITY IN PROGRESS

The IBU Executive Board Meetings of 2025/2026 marked a year of strategic alignment, operational excellence and transformative initiatives across governance, sustainability and global engagement. From June 2025 to March 2026, the IBU advanced its Target 2030 strategy, strengthened Olympic and Paralympic Games preparations and set new benchmarks in media, marketing and athlete development.



KEY TAKEAWAYS AND DECISIONS

176TH IBU EB MEETING

24-25 JUNE 2025; ANIF, AUSTRIA

President and Executive Board

- Leadership prioritised strengthening relationships within the Olympic Movement, monitoring Milano Cortina 2026 preparations and supporting regional development. Governance topics, including suspended members and Para biathlon development, remained central.

Secretary General and Administration

- The organisation performed strongly, with positive stakeholder feedback. Rising workloads from Target 2030, Winter Games preparations and new initiatives prompted a structural review to ensure long-term efficiency and staff wellbeing. An updated Target 2030 action plan was acknowledged for the next meeting and the virtual IBU Presidents' meeting.

Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU)

- The BIU advanced anti-doping and governance efforts, aligning with CAS procedures and monitoring suspended federations. Initial steps toward a Mental Health and Wellbeing Charter were introduced, while independent testing challenges in certain regions remained under observation.

Strategy, Sustainability and Governance

- Target 2030 implementation progressed as planned, with sustainability reporting aligned to the financial year and carbon accounting frameworks refined. Membership expanded with the admission of the Royal Moroccan Ski and Mountain Sports Federation as a provisional member. Governance structures and long-term planning frameworks were further refined.

Media and Marketing

- Media performance remained robust, with stable broadcast reach and growing digital audiences. Focus areas included developing digital rights frameworks, evaluating future commercial structures and learning from marketing campaigns and digital initiatives.

Sport & Event

- The development of a modern sustainable sport and event concept as a strategic priority advanced on schedule. Key decisions were made on calendars event structures and Winter Games planning, including Para biathlon integration. The Loop One Festival launched as a new event concept, while discussions addressed summer biathlon's future and regulatory developments.

Development

- Investments in development programmes supported National Federations through funding, education and initiatives like Closing the Gap and Biathlon 4 All. Expanded budgets and project support underscored the strategic priority of global sports growth and competitive balance.

Communications

- Record digital engagement and audience growth were achieved through enhanced content strategies and campaigns. Year-round demands continued to pressure resources and staffing capacity.

Finance & Administration

The IBU maintained a strong financial position with the approved 2025/26 budget, audited 2024/25 statements and strategic resource allocation for long-term initiatives. Investments in digital infrastructure and organisational capacity were prioritised, alongside governance and compliance improvements.



177TH IBU EB MEETING

10-11 SEPTEMBER 2025; BERCHTESGADEN, GERMANY

President / Governance

- The President focused on strategic engagement ahead of Milano Cortina 2026, coordinating with the IOC and IPC and addressing geopolitical challenges related to the new WADA Code. Academic partnerships expanded with a collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen.

Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU)

- The BIU presented the IBU Wellbeing Charter, developed by the Mental Health Working Group, with final approval scheduled for EB 178 in November. Preparations began for a dedicated wellbeing coordinator role. The National Federation Governance Framework pilot phase has concluded, with full rollout planned for October 2025. Discussions on financial incentives for governance compliance continued.

Strategy and Sustainability

- Target 2030 implementation advanced, with a workshop planned for EB 178 in November. An organisational structural review led to strengthening executive support functions. Sustainability efforts included identifying priority areas and introducing initial concepts for a long-term institutional campaign.

Membership and Compliance

- A provisional membership application was postponed pending further review. The Russian Biathlon Union's status remained unchanged, with reintegration conditions unfulfilled and ongoing monitoring.

Media

- The Executive Board approved a new National Federation Digital Content Rights Agreement, effective from the 2025/2026 season and confirmed the continuation of the Digital Reach Bonus criteria. Discussions on media rights for Russia were ongoing, with finalisation expected ahead of the season.

Marketing

- Preparations for the Biathlon Partner Summit in Oslo (March 2026) progressed as planned. The Board clarified that National Federations retain exclusive responsibility for exploiting advertising opportunities on athlete uniforms and equipment within existing regulations.

Sport & Event

- Milano Cortina 2026 preparations remained a central focus, with close coordination with Organising Committees and financial support measures. The Loop One Festival 2026 edition was approved. Rules on wild card transfers following nationality changes were clarified and work on future supplying partner structures continued. Para biathlon planning challenges for the Paralympic Winter Games were addressed with corrective measures.

Development

- Development activities advanced across key programmes, with a new partnership with the International School Sport Federation nearing formalisation. The IBU Academy expanded its offerings, including coach education, digital learning tools and certification systems.

Communication

- Efforts focused on maximising the impact of the Winter Games season and supporting the Loop One Festival launch. The Reach 26 initiative was implemented to enhance global visibility through athlete-driven content and targeted market activation. Additional investments were allocated to special digital projects to boost audience reach.

Finance & Administration

- Financial operations remained stable (Forecast I), with monitoring via the Risk Management Register. The external auditor was reappointed for 2025/2026. Organisational efficiency was strengthened through the recruitment of an Executive Assistant and sustainability measures, such as installing a photovoltaic system at IBU headquarters, progressed.

Other matters

- Decisions on athlete nationality changes were postponed pending further information. The IBU continued monitoring transgender policy developments across International Federations. A Governance Working Group was tasked with reviewing and defining the future role of the Treasurer.

178TH IBU EB MEETING

19-21 NOVEMBER 2025; ANIF, AUSTRIA

Target 2030 Workshop

- The EB and management team dedicated a full day to a Target 2030 workshop, focusing on action plans and strategic initiatives.

President and Executive Board

- The President reported on a meeting with the new IOC President to discuss IBU priorities within the Olympic Movement. At the IF Forum in Lausanne, the IBU joined Winter Olympic Federations in reaffirming the traditional definition of winter sports on snow and ice. The Fit for the Future consultation addressed the Olympic programme, Youth Olympic Games, female category protection and commercial partnerships. The EB concentrated on Winter Games readiness for Milano Cortina 2026, IOC engagement and governance discussions.

Secretary General and Administration

- Operational demands rose due to Target 2030, Olympic preparations and new projects. A structural review process was initiated to ensure organisational effectiveness, supported by workload management efforts.

Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU)

- The BIU expanded governance, safeguarding and athlete wellbeing activities, including the rollout of the NF Governance Framework and progress in safeguarding and mental health initiatives. Approval of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, along with updated Congress Rules and 2026 Election and Campaign Rules, strengthened integrity structures.

Strategy, Sustainability and Governance

- Strategic work advanced through Target 2030 action planning and organisational review preparation. The Sustainability Strategy was reinforced with a new roadmap and enhanced climate targets. Work on institutional positioning and membership requirements continued.

Media and Marketing

- Efforts built on strong partnerships and growing stakeholder interest. Focus areas included commercial model evolution, Winter Games activation campaigns and partner engagement initiatives like the Biathlon Partner Summit, alongside marketing function developments.

Sport & Event

- Milano Cortina 2026 preparations progressed steadily for Olympic and Paralympic Games competitions. Key decisions covered competition schedules, event structures and the future of certain formats. The Loop One Festival continued to evolve as a strategic platform.

Development

- Development programmes supported National Federations through education, funding and targeted initiatives, including the IBU Academy and Biathlon 4 All. Focus areas included equipment support, gender equality and long-term athlete and federation development pathways.

Finance & Administration

- Financial operations remained stable with updated Forecast IIB and no major changes expected. Ongoing work included policy updates, organisational transparency and reviews of staffing and contractor structures.

179TH IBU EB MEETING

09-10 MARCH 2026; VAL DI Fiemme, ITALY

President / Governance

- The President highlighted Milano Cortina 2026's success, including medal reallocations and the IBU's strengthened IOC reputation. Discussions included future media agreements and governance principles for marketing partnerships. The IBU received the **IOC Climate Action Award 2025** for sustainability efforts and the President was awarded the **Olympic Order** for leading the IBU through a transformative period. A fifth MoU with IAT Leipzig was signed.

Secretary General

- The Secretary General praised the success of the Olympic Winter Games and emphasised the staff's efforts in delivering the Games alongside the regular IBU event series and Paralympic Winter Games.

Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU)

- The BIU expanded its scope to include safeguarding, competition manipulation and NF governance alongside anti-doping. The **Athlete 365 x Powerade Mind Zone** at the Olympic Winter Games received positive feedback. SafeVoice entered Phase 2, with pilot completion in summer 2026. A pilot for social media abuse monitoring during major events was launched. The EB approved revised BIU Board remuneration, the IBU's mental health and wellbeing policy and strategy package (including a new Wellbeing Coordinator role) and the NF Governance Framework, which saw 82% NF participation.

Strategy and Sustainability

- Target 2030's two-year progress report is due by mid-August 2026, with an in-person workshop scheduled for EB180 in June 2026. A framework for an institutional campaign for reserved TV advertising spaces was approved. The EB approved Governance Working Group proposals, including transitioning the Para Biathlon Working Group into a Commission from Congress 2026 and defining national activity requirements for new provisional members.

Membership and Compliance

- No complete provisional membership applications were received. A report on active membership compliance is due at EB180 in June 2026. The Monitoring Group's mandate was extended to include Russian Biathlon Union reintegration criteria. The EB approved procedures for resolving competing membership claims, with a working group established.

Media

- The IBU ranked **#1 winter International Federation for social media engagement** during the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 (IOC data). TV viewership doubled in Italy, with significant growth in France. The President and Secretary General were tasked with agreeing on basic terms for post-2030 media agreements. A working group will finalise contracts and a review of advertising rules for the next Olympic cycle is underway.

Marketing

- Felix Bitterling will join as Marketing Director in July 2026. The future marketing approach will emphasise cooperation between the IBU and its marketing partner, starting with identifying and pitching to potential new sponsors. The Biathlon Partner Summit in Oslo (March 2026) saw strong interest from National Federations and partners. New NF digital rights packages were implemented and well-received.

Sport & Event

- The decentralised Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 concept was successful yet challenging, with debriefs and surveys planned. The EB approved OC contributions for 2026-2030, WCH 2031 application documents (submissions deadline 1 May 2026) and the Para Biathlon World Cup Calendar 2026/2027. The Loop One Festival 2026 was confirmed for Munich Olympic Park (17-18 October 2026), with EBU handling TV production. Advertising rules are under review for the next cycle. Implementation of new rifle safety markers was smooth and competition start time reviews directly impacted viewership.

Communications

- The **Reach 26** project achieved record engagement during Milano Cortina 2026: **20x impressions, 116x video views, 900% engagement increase and +840,000 followers**. IBU channels saw 850,000 unique website users, 350,000 app users and 65 million total interactions.

Development

- **Liatoppen 2026**, the world's largest biathlon competition, with over 1,000 participants from 10 National Federations, takes place from 10-12 April. The **Closing the Competition Gap** program met Olympic Winter Games 2026 goals (eight NFs won medals) and will focus on 2030 Olympic preparation and long-term planning (15 NFs in the top 10 at World Cups, 15 NFs in the top 6 at 2030 Winter Games). The Biathlon 4 All Excellence Award was established, with the first award at Congress 2026. The 2026 Basic/First Level Academy courses are fully subscribed and a new Para Biathlon Coach Education Course launches in June 2026. The **Journal of Biathlon Coaching** will become peer-reviewed. The EB approved the Closing the Competition Gap project concept (2026/2027) and the DEI Policy and Strategy 2026-2030.

Finance & Administration

- The EB approved the Preliminary Budget 2026/27 and the Budget Framework 2026-2030. Continued financial support for IBU GmbH was approved to prevent negative equity. Approval Policies v1.0 (effective 1 May 2026) and Powers of Attorney for the Secretary General and Director of Finance & Administration were approved. Forecast III for Financial Year 2025/26 (as of 31 January 2026) was positive.

BIATHLON PARTNER SUMMIT

OSLO HOLMENKOLLEN



BIATHLON PARTNER SUMMIT 2026

BIATHLON PARTNER SUMMIT 2026

The Biathlon Partner Summit 2026, held in Oslo Holmenkollen from 17-19 March, united global biathlon stakeholders to advance collaboration and innovation. Building on its inaugural success, the second edition focused on strengthening partnerships and shaping the sport's future.

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

Ten countries - Sweden, Estonia, Norway, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, Italy, Slovenia and the USA - participated.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

IBU's marketing rights holder Infront, title sponsor LaVita and partners Conrad Electronic, Adidas, Argeta and NIBE and broadcasting partner EBU joined the event.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Discussions centred on digital reach, engagement with younger audiences, sponsorship innovation and effective collaborations.



INTERACTIVE FORMAT

Featured keynotes, case studies, panels, round-tables and a new dedicated workshop for National Federations.

COLLABORATIVE OUTCOMES

Strengthened relationships, knowledge sharing and alignment on future development opportunities.

GROWTH IMPACT

Reinforced the biathlon community and accelerated dialogue on innovation, commercial development and global sport expansion.

World Conference on Doping in Sport



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



CITANITY

KADA

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION THROUGH SPORTING LEADERSHIP

The IBU's international relations activities in 2025/2026 were marked by growing recognition on the international scene, highlighted by prestigious IOC awards and reflected a steady commitment to collaboration, integrity and the development of winter sports within the Olympic Movement.

MAY 2025

BALKAN CONFERENCE

IBU President Olle Dahlin visited the Balkan Conference in Kruševo, North Macedonia.

JUNE 2025

IBU JOINS OLYMPIC FUTURE TALKS

The IBU leadership attended the Winter Olympic Federations General (WOF) Assembly in Lausanne (10–11 June 2025), where the leadership of the Winter Olympic Federations (WOF) discussed challenges related to the upcoming Olympic Winter Games and common topics to be discussed with the IOC, as well as strategic developments and the future.

JUNE 2025

IOC PRESIDENT HANDOVER CEREMONY

The President attended the IOC President Handover Ceremony at Olympic House, together with representatives of the Olympic Movement and invited guests.

SEPTEMBER 2025

COCOM FINALISES 2026 OLYMPIC PLANS

IBU leadership attended the 6th IOC Coordination Commission meeting (15–17 September, Milan), the final in-person session before the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. IOC President Kirsty Coventry praised the progress made while also stressing the need for strong action due to the challenging timeline, which was vital for a successful Olympic Winter Games.

SEPTEMBER 2025

PRESIDENT ATTENDS IPC AND APSO MEETINGS IN SEOUL

President Olle Dahlin attended the Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations (APSO) General Assembly in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 23 September 2025. He also participated in the IPC General Assembly and Conference from 24–27 September.

OCTOBER 2025

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION FOR SPORTS INTEGRITY

IBU President Olle Dahlin and BIU Head Greg McKenna were among 400 leaders attending, both in person and virtually, the 5th International Forum for Sports Integrity in Lausanne. Organised by the IOC, the Forum adopted the Universal Declaration on Sports Integrity, a landmark commitment to safeguarding integrity in sport.

OCTOBER 2025

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE IN LAUSANNE

Ahead of the International Forum and in connection with meetings involving the Winter Olympic Federations, IBU President Olle Dahlin had a personal meeting with IOC President Kirsty Coventry at Olympic House in Lausanne. President Dahlin used the opportunity to showcase the IBU's progress in recent years, present the ambitious Target 2030 strategic plan and explore avenues for collaboration.

OCTOBER 2025

UNITING AGAINST CORRUPTION

The International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport, which unites sports bodies, governments and NGOs, held its 4th Steering Committee Meeting and Annual General Conference in Lausanne. IBU President Olle Dahlin and Riikka Rakic (Head of Strategy, Sustainability & Governance) joined discussions on transparency, ethical governance and global collaboration against corruption in sport.

NOVEMBER 2025

STATEMENT BY THE WINTER OLYMPIC FEDERATIONS

In its recent statement, the Winter Olympic Federations (WOF) reaffirmed its commitment to innovation, universality and the distinct identity of the Olympic Winter Games. While supporting the IOC's Fit for the Future review, WOF firmly cautioned against proposals to add non-winter disciplines, stressing that this would dilute the unique snow- and ice-based character of the Winter Games.

NOVEMBER 2025

IBU AND ISF SIGN MOU

The IBU and the International School Sport Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the IF Forum in Lausanne to promote biathlon in schools worldwide. The ISF would help expand the youth community via its network, while the IBU would organise high-standard school competitions through the Biathlon 4 All project.

DECEMBER 2025

WORLD CONFERENCE ON DOPING IN KOREA

The WADA Annual Foundation Board meeting was held on 5 December, alongside the sixth World Conference on Doping in Sport in Busan, South Korea. IBU President Olle Dahlin took part in the WADA Foundation Board meeting, representing all International Federations that govern a winter sport on the Olympic programme. The main topic was the approval of the new Anti-Doping Code, valid from 1 January 2027.

FEBRUARY 2026

OLYMPIC ORDER AWARD FOR OLLE DAHLIN

During the closing IOC Session at the Olympic Winter Games, IBU President Olle Dahlin was awarded the Olympic Order, the highest distinction awarded by the IOC, by IOC President Kirsty Coventry in recognition of his outstanding merit in the cause of world sport and faithfulness to the Olympic ideal.

FEBRUARY 2026

IBU WINS IOC CLIMATE ACTION AWARD 2025

During the 145th IOC Session, held during the Olympic Winter Games, the International Biathlon Union was announced as the winner of the IOC Climate Action Award 2025 in the International Federation category, in recognition of driving new sustainability standards in sport. IBU President Olle Dahlin received the award from IOC Member HSH Prince Albert.

FEBRUARY 2026

TALIHÄRM ELECTED TO IOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

Four-time Olympian biathlete Johanna Talihärm of Estonia was elected to the IOC Athletes' Commission, as well as becoming an IOC Member, following a vote of 2,393 athletes competing at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. She was elected alongside Yunjong Won (Republic of Korea, bobsleigh). The turnout of 83.4% was the second-highest ever recorded at the Olympic Winter Games.

MARCH 2026

FIRST-EVER WOF STRATEGIC PLAN

IBU President Olle Dahlin and Secretary General Max Cobb took part in a Winter Olympic Federations meeting to develop the first-ever strategic plan for the WOF.

APRIL 2026

IBU PRESIDENT DAHLIN IN UKRAINE

After the BMW IBU World Cup 2025/2026 season, National Federations concluded the winter with their National Championships. In Bukovel, Ukraine, Olle Dahlin attended the final events and presented reallocated World Championships medals to members of Ukraine's 2011 Men's Relay team. The IBU President not only recognised the athletes' performance but also showed solidarity with the wider biathlon family in Ukraine.





IBU ATHLETES' COMMITTEE



ABOUT THE IBU ATHLETES' COMMITTEE

The Athletes' Committee (AC) consists of six members. Five members are elected by IBU World Cup athletes every two years (for four-year terms) and confirmed by the IBU Executive Board. The sixth

member is appointed by the AC and also serves on the Technical Committee (TC). The AC acts as a bridge between active athletes and IBU bodies, operating with full autonomy.



LENA HAECKI-GROSS
CHAIR

LENA HAECKI-GROSS
CHAIR OF COMMITTEE

SIMON EDER
EXECUTIV BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

JESSICA JISLOVA
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE

SIMON KAISER
PARA BIATHLON ATHLETES
REPRESENTATIVE LIASON

LISA VITTOZZI
IOC ATHLETES REPRESENTATIVE

CONTINUOUS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the 2025/2026 season, the Athletes' Committee advanced a range of initiatives and proposals. Key achievements included increased prize money and the successful implementation of athlete safety checks. The Committee's five members - Sebastian Samuelsson (Chair), Lena Haecki-Gross (EB Representative), Ingrid Landmark Tandrevold, Simon Eder and Johannes Kühn - completed their second year of collaboration. In March 2026, Sebastian Samuelsson, Ingrid Landmark Tandrevold and Johannes Kühn concluded their four-year terms. They were succeeded by three newly elected members: Lisa Vittozzi, Jessica Jislova and Simon Kaiser.



ENHANCING ATHLETE COMMUNICATION

To improve engagement, the Athletes' Committee continued issuing regular newsletters to athletes, administratively supported by a dedicated IBU staff member. The newsletters provided updates on the Athletes' Committee work and shared relevant news from the IBU and the Biathlon Integrity Unit.

ENGAGEMENT WITH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

In spring and summer 2025, the Athletes' Committee collaborated closely with its Technical Committee representative, **Kaisa Mäkäräinen**, to develop competition formats and regulations with the Technical Committee. The Athletes' Committee submitted three formal proposals to the Technical Committee:

1 Approved: introduction of a leader bib in the IBU Cup Total Standings (green bib).

2 Not deferred: two proposals were deferred, as it was agreed that no substantial changes should be introduced shortly before the end of the Olympic cycle in 2026.

CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Lena Haecki-Gross represented the Athletes' Committee at Executive Board meetings.

Athletes' Committee members participated in IOC Global Athlete Network calls, reinforcing the IBU's reputation as one of the most engaged athlete committees in international sports.

The Athletes' Committee maintained ongoing communication with the IBU Sport & Event Department to address athlete feedback, concerns and enquiries.



ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

Due to illness within several teams, the Athletes' Committee conducted its Annual Open Meeting online during the BMW IBU World Cup in Hochfilzen. The athletes were informed about the upcoming election of three new AC members and were invited to submit applications. IBU representatives joined the meeting to provide season updates and answer athletes' questions.



At the end of the 2025/26 season, three new members were elected to the Athletes' Committee, and we restructured our responsibilities to improve the effectiveness of our activities. Lena Häcki-Gross now serves as the Chair of the AC, Simon Eder represents the AC on the Executive Board, Jessica Jislova is our representative on the Technical Committee, Simon Kaiser oversees the newsletter, and Lisa Vittozzi handles the IOC calls.

**IBU ATHLETES' COMMITTEE CHAIR
LENA HAECKI-GROSS**

CHANGES IN THE ATHLETES' COMMITTEE

During the BMW IBU World Cup in Oslo Holmenkollen, Norway, over 300 athletes voted online to elect three new Athletes' Committee members. Five candidates (three women and two men) contested the election. The candidates - Jessica Jislova (CZE), Simon Kaiser (GER) and Lisa Vittozzi (ITA) - were elected to four-year terms, succeeding Sebastian Samuelsson, Ingrid Landmark Tandrevold, and Johannes Kühn.

ELECTION OF PARA ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVES

During the IBU Para Biathlon World Cup Finals in Torsby, Sweden (8–12 March 2025), three Para Athlete Representatives were elected:

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

Voting was open to all Para biathletes who had participated in either the IBU Para Biathlon World Cup or the IBU Para Biathlon World Championships 2025 in Pokljuka. The election process ensured gender representation and required that

all three sport classes – sitting, standing, and vision impaired – were represented among the elected athletes.

The Para Athlete Representatives operate independently while maintaining close cooperation with the Athletes' Committee, helping to ensure that the perspectives and interests of Para athletes are effectively represented within the IBU.

With support from the IBU staff, the Para Athlete Representatives also launched a dedicated Para athletes newsletter, providing athletes with regular updates and relevant information from IBU Headquarters throughout the year.



DO NOT FORGET: RIFLE



IBU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

SAFETY MARKER!!!



ABOUT THE IBU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Since the 2022 IBU Congress, the IBU Technical Committee (TC) has consisted of 12 members. After each full member National Federation nominates its candidate, 10 are elected for four years by the Congress. IBU 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 Target 26 strategic plan.

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 the 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; 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

IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

During the 2025/2026 season, the Technical Committee focused on implementing structural improvements across the IBU competition series and development events. It maintained close collaboration with Race Directors, IBU Referees and Technical Delegates to monitor event operations, assess applied protocols and gather constructive feedback.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

OF THE 2025/2026 WINTER SEASON

- The IBU competition series setup, including the calculation of IBU Qualifying Points for each eligible Regional Event and IBU Junior competition (Junior Cup and Youth Junior World Championships). These points will now serve as the basis for athlete qualification across the various IBU circuits.
- The implementation of enhanced rifle safety through the introduction of the safety marker. After an educational phase across all IBU circuits during the first trimester, the system is now well established. The announced adjustments to the fluor testing protocol and common waxing were implemented and worked without major incidents.
- The rollout of the online International Referee test has been completed. After several examinations conducted in different nations, it works well and represents a genuinely positive development that is highly appreciated. This success also enabled the implementation of the same system, with equal success, for the Technical Delegate examination held at the end of May for 12 new candidates.

The 2025/2026 season showcased the TC's dedication to innovation, athlete growth and competition management. Implemented systems set the stage for a more sustainable biathlon framework.

Credit goes to the Organising Committees for their outstanding work and to the teams for their cooperation. The season's highlight was the fantastic Olympic Winter Games - a reward for all who contribute to biathlon's success.

IBU TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIR
CHRISTOPHE VASSALLO

TC MEETING 66

26-27 MAY 2025; MUNICH, GERMANY

- **Rule amendments:** reviewed and approved updates, with a focus on safety regulations and the mandatory use of a rifle safety marker.
- **Calendar finalisation:** confirmed the IBU Cup and Junior Cup calendars, including the IBU Open European Championships and the IBU Youth Junior World Championships for upcoming seasons.
- **World Cup & qualification systems:** discussed updates to the World Cup start group system and defined Qualifying Points calculation methods for the Junior Cup and Regional Events.
- **Future of the sport:** in a joint session with the Development Commission, explored potential adjustments to Regional Events and a shared preference to discontinue the Summer World Championships, strengthening summer competition through Regional Events.

TC MEETING 67

30 OCTOBER 2025; MUNICH, GERMANY

- **Season preparations:** finalised preparations for the upcoming season, including the implementation of key strategic initiatives.
- **Fluor Testing and waxing protocol:** reviewed and confirmed updated fluor testing procedures and the common waxing protocol for continued use.
- **Appointments and recruitment:** appointed Technical Delegates and IBU Referees for the season and launched a call for applications to recruit new Technical Delegates.
- **World Cup and Olympic Winter Games alignment:** approved the World Cup schedule for 2026/27, received updates on venue license extensions, and reviewed preparations for Milano Cortina 2026 and Para biathlon developments.



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 2030. 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 Organising Committees (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
SPORT & EVENT DIRECTOR

DANIEL BÖHM
SPORT & EVENT
DIRECTOR

MARTIN STRICKER
SPORT & EVENT
MANAGER

BORUT NUNAR
RACE DIRECTOR
BMW IBU WORLD CUP

KRISTJAN OJA
RACE DIRECTOR
IBU CUP

TOMASZ BERNAT
SPORT DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER

JANIS BERZINS
EVENT
COORDINATOR

**EKATERINA
BOYARSKIKH**
PROJECT COORDINATOR
AND ADMINISTRATION

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

SETTING NEW STANDARDS

The 2025/2026 season marked a pivotal year for the Sport & Event Department, introducing the rifle safety marker, launching the Loop One Biathlon Opening Festival and expanding the Qualifying Points system to lower-level competitions. Historic milestones included the debut of a refugee athlete in the World Cup and record-breaking success at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.





JUNE 2025 OC MEETING

The Annual gathering of Organising Committees for IBU events took place in Salzburg from 25-27 June 2025. Delegates from 27 OCs and key stakeholders like the EBU and Infront convened to exchange knowledge and updates, focusing on the IBU's Target 2030 strategy.

OCTOBER 2025 RIFLE SAFETY MARKER INTRODUCTION

As part of the IBU's ongoing commitment to enhancing safety standards, the mandatory use of a rifle safety marker was introduced ahead of the 2025/26 season, following a decision by the Technical Committee. This measure represents another important step in improving safety at IBU events. The IBU provides the markers for all its competitions.

OCTOBER 2025 LOOP ONE BIATHLON OPENING FESTIVAL

The first-ever Loop One Biathlon Opening Festival was successfully delivered, marking an innovative way to kick off the biathlon season. Designed to bring biathlon closer to fans, the event provided a unique platform to engage audiences and test new ideas. Following its strong success, the festival is set to become a recurring feature in future seasons.

NOVEMBER 2025 SNOW NETWORK WEBINAR

Ahead of the start of the season, the IBU hosted an IBU Snow Network Webinar with its Organising Committees. The webinar provided a platform for industry and OC updates, a review of the course report analysis from the 2024/2025 season and a presentation of the findings from the IBU Snow Network survey conducted over the past five years.

DECEMBER 2025 QUALIFYING POINTS CALCULATION EXTENDED TO MORE EVENTS

With gradual changes to the event series structure, it became necessary to extend the IBU Qualifying Points (QP) system to lower-level competitions. A dedicated calculation formula for the IBU Junior Cup and Regional Events was developed, approved by the Technical Committee and successfully implemented, starting in December 2025.

JANUARY 2026 FIRST-EVER REFUGEE ATHLETE IN WORLD CUP

At the 2024 IBU Congress, the Biathlon Refugee Team (BRT) was introduced, creating a pathway for refugee athletes to participate in IBU events. In January 2026, a historic milestone was achieved when a BRT athlete qualified for the Biathlon World Cup for the first time. The athlete made their debut at World Cup 4 in Oberhof, marking a landmark moment for both the individual and the BRT programme.

TARGET 2030 PROJECT KICKS OFFS

Following the finalisation of the Target 2030 action plan for the Sport & Event Department, the first initiatives were launched. Recognising the importance of stakeholder involvement, consultation groups with Organising Committees were established and began their work in autumn 2025. Key focus areas include enhancing the event experience, raising event standards and optimising operational delivery across IBU events.

TARGET2030



APRIL 2026

NEW EQUIPMENT PARTNER CONTRACTS

With the conclusion of an Olympic cycle, various partnerships naturally came to an end. The IBU Equipment Partner Programme, which brings together a wide range of partners from the sports industry, was simplified and updated for the 2026–2030 cycle. The renewed programme, with a stronger focus on streamlined structures and expanded digital options, was officially launched in April 2026.

FEBRUARY 2026

OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES MILANO CORTINA 2026

The Olympic Winter Games marked a historic milestone for biathlon, achieving record audiences, sold-out grandstands in Antholz-Anterselva and unprecedented global reach. Returning to one of its most traditional venues, the sport was showcased in its natural environment, delivering first-class competition and significantly boosting biathlon's global popularity.

MARCH 2026

ATHLETES' COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The most recent IBU Athletes' Committee elections were held during the BMW IBU World Cup in Oslo Holmenkollen in March 2026. The elected athletes are: Simon Eder (AUT), Lena Häcki-Gross (SUI), Jessica Jislova (CZE), Simon Kaiser (GER) and Lisa Vittozzi (ITA). The Athletes' Committee serves as a vital link for sport-technical matters and coordination between athletes and the IBU.



RACE DIRECTORS' ANALYSIS



BIATHLON'S TRIUMPH IN ANTHOLZ IS A REWARD FOR EVERYONE IN THE BIATHLON FAMILY

One only needs to look at the record-breaking biathlon numbers at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 to understand why the biathlon family is a true family, where every individual - whether an athlete, coach, IBU representative, OC member or volunteer - knows their role, dedicates themselves fully to it and thrives.

The months of meticulous preparation in the off-season, the long days on the road, and even the occasional dramatic all-night snow-preparation shifts during the World Cup weeks all make sense when you see the full stands in sold-out stadiums, with fans celebrating an event that brings out the best in people: fair, world-class competitions, true friendships and a vibe so good it stays with everyone. Thanks to a continuous team effort on all levels of our sport, we had nine fabulous World Cup weeks and a celebration of biathlon in Milano Cortina 2026. It doesn't get much better than that!

BORUT NUNAR

BMW IBU WORLD CUP RACE DIRECTOR



STRONG SEASON ACROSS THE BOARD

The 2025/2026 IBU Cup season delivered all 70 planned competitions across eight events and the Open European Championships, showcasing the circuit's strength. Hosted in Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Slovakia, Norway and the USA, including a historic debut in Lake Placid, the season featured excellent venue preparation, reliable snow conditions and efficient operations.

Key highlights included operational improvements such as pre-start inspections and standardised safety checks, as well as minimal schedule adjustments. The season also saw discussions on future calendar development, including expanded use of the Mass Start 60 format. Dedicated organisers, officials and the IBU family ensured another successful winter.

KRISTJAN OJA

IBU CUP RACE DIRECTOR



FLEXIBLE TEAMWORK AT ITS BEST

The 2025/2026 IBU Junior Cup season thrived despite extreme temperatures, with all races held in optimally prepared conditions.

It started strongly in Goms, Switzerland, then Martell-Val Martello, Italy, before debuting in Madona, Latvia, and Imatra, Finland, where adjusted start times, due to extremely low temperatures, ensured smooth competitions.

Throughout the season, cooperation among the teams was outstanding. There was also continuous progress in both common waxing and the competition format, further enhanced by the implementation of updated rules. These changes made procedures more practical and easier to apply.

The season concluded with the Youth and Junior World Championships in Arber, the final World Championships to include the youth category.

TOMASZ BERNAT

IBU SPORT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,
IBU JUNIOR CUP RACE DIRECTOR





IBU LOOP ONE BIATHLON OPENING FESTIVAL



LOOP ONE BIATHLON OPENING FESTIVAL IN MUNICH

In October 2025, the Loop One Biathlon Opening Festival - a cornerstone of the IBU's Target 2030 strategy - debuted in Munich's Olympic Park, blending biathlon with music, family entertainment and hands-on sport experiences. The festival's highlight was the Super Sprint final, where Eric Perrot (France) and Lisa Vittozzi (Italy) claimed historic victories.

The festival showcased junior and Para biathlon competitions, fitness activities and a live concert, transforming the venue into a vibrant hub for fans to engage with the sport and its legends.

The event drew a record 50,000 visitors, with 18,000 fans packing the stands and lining the course for a season-opening race unlike any other. The format featured four qualification heats per gender, culmi-

nating in a 15-athlete final. In the men's race, reigning world champion **Eric Perrot** edged out Norway's rising star Isak Frey, while **Lisa Vittozzi** marked her return to competition with a victory, after a season-long absence due to injury.

The electrifying atmosphere was amplified globally, as **13 broadcasters** transmitted the action live, bringing the excitement to millions worldwide.



"By bringing biathlon from the mountains into the heart of the city, we extended our reach beyond our usual fanbase, giving unprecedented access to the stars of our sport and engaging a whole new audience."

MAX COBB
IBU SECRETARY GENERAL



HIGHLIGHTS

PARA BIATHLON We showcased the world's top para biathletes, representing seven nations.



FAN ACTIVITIES Fans had the opportunity to meet, try biathlon under the guidance of, and chat with their biathlon idols.



URBAN PARTY Three live concerts - featuring Freude, Felicia Lu, and headliner Kamrad - entertained fans.



BIATHLON 4 ALL We created the largest Biathlon 4 All area to date, giving visitors the chance to try biathlon first-hand.



NIGHT OF BIATHLON The 2024/2025 IBU Awards for Excellence were announced during 'Night of Biathlon'.



SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING We created a mandatory 30-minute sustainability course for volunteers.





IBU PARA BIATHLON



ADVANCING PARA BIATHLON THROUGH INTEGRATION, GROWTH AND PROMOTION

The 2025/2026 season represented an important step towards the IBU's long-term objective of fully integrating Para biathlon. Significant progress was achieved across the three strategic pillars of developing competition structures, growing participation and strengthening international promotion.



DEVELOPING THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The successful delivery of the first Paralympic Winter Games under the IBU's governance at Milano Cortina 2026 marked a defining milestone in the integration journey. It provided valuable operational experience while establishing a strong foundation for the Paralympic Winter Games French Alps 2030.

At the same time, work continued to align the Para biathlon competition calendar with the IBU's regular event allocation cycle, providing greater long-term planning certainty for athletes, National Federations and Organising Committees. The 2026/2027 calendar was published in April 2026, while applications to host the 2027/2028 Para Biathlon World Cup and World Championships were successfully received.



Established in July 2025, the IBU Para Biathlon Working Group brought together its global expertise to support the sport's continued development. Throughout the season, the group provided strategic guidance on competition delivery, preparations for Milano Cortina 2026 and the review of rules and competition formats for the new Paralympic cycle.

GROWING PARTICIPATION

Participation in the IBU Para Biathlon World Cup continued to grow, increasing by almost 20% to **126 athletes from 22 National Federations**.

Development activities also expanded. Summer 2025 saw the first combined Para and able-bodied IBU Summer Development Camp in Lillehammer, Norway, followed by the third IBU Para Biathlon Development Camp in Notschrei/GER. For the first time, more than **€140,000** in IBU Development Project funding was allocated to IBU NFs to support talent identification, athlete recruitment and development activities in Para biathlon.

The season also marked the launch of a key Target 2030 initiative to evaluate the potential of electronic rifles. Athletes, coaches, manufacturers and other stakeholders contributed to the assessment, supporting the development of future rifle solutions for Para biathlon.

"Our vision is simple: one biathlon family, where Para biathlon continues to grow, inspire and belong at every level of our sport."

RIIKKA RAKIC
HEAD OF PARA SPORT

DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION

Para biathlon became increasingly integrated into the IBU's communication and promotional activities throughout the season. Its inclusion at the Dresden City Biathlon and the inaugural Loop One Biathlon Opening Festival introduced the sport to new audiences, while expanded digital content and a live-streaming pilot further increased its visibility.

Together, these initiatives strengthened the profile of Para biathlon and reinforced its position as an integral part of the global biathlon family.





IBU DEVELOPMENT

HAMMER



ABOUT IBU DEVELOPMENT

The IBU Development Department continues to strengthen biathlon's foundations and support its global growth, in line with the IBU's strategic objectives. Working even more closely with National Federations, the department focuses on sustainable athlete development, coach education and increasing participation at all levels. Throughout the season, we also enhanced collaboration across IBU departments, allowing us to deliver more effective and impactful development initiatives together.

A key focus of the 2025/2026 season was the Closing the Competition Gap initiative, supporting athletes and National Federations in progressing towards higher levels of competition. Coach development reached an important milestone with the first full season of the IBU Academy, delivering education and courses for coaches across all levels of the pathway. The department also continued its contribution to the development of

para biathlon, supporting greater accessibility and opportunities within the sport. Participation and inclusion remained at the heart of our work. Biathlon 4 All reached the next level through expanded activities and engagement, highlighted by the launch of the first-ever International Biathlon Day, celebrated worldwide as part of the programme. Together with Regional Events, IBU-IOC Camps, youth initiatives and mentoring programmes, these activities help create accessible pathways into biathlon and support the sport's long-term growth.

The achievements presented in this report would not have been possible without the commitment, creativity and partnership of our National Federations. As we look ahead, we remain committed to working proactively and strategically with you to strengthen biathlon's foundations, support future generations and unlock new opportunities



DAGMARA GERASIMUK
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

DAGMARA GERASIMUK
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

GEROLD SATTLACKER
HEAD OF THE IBU ACADEMY

MAIJA SAVOLAINEN
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
COORDINATOR

ANNA KITZBICHLER
EDUCATION MANAGER

ILARIO MADDALIN
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
COORDINATOR

MAJA MILATOVIC
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

SOPHIE MAYR
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

MAXIM BERDNIKOV
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
COORDINATOR

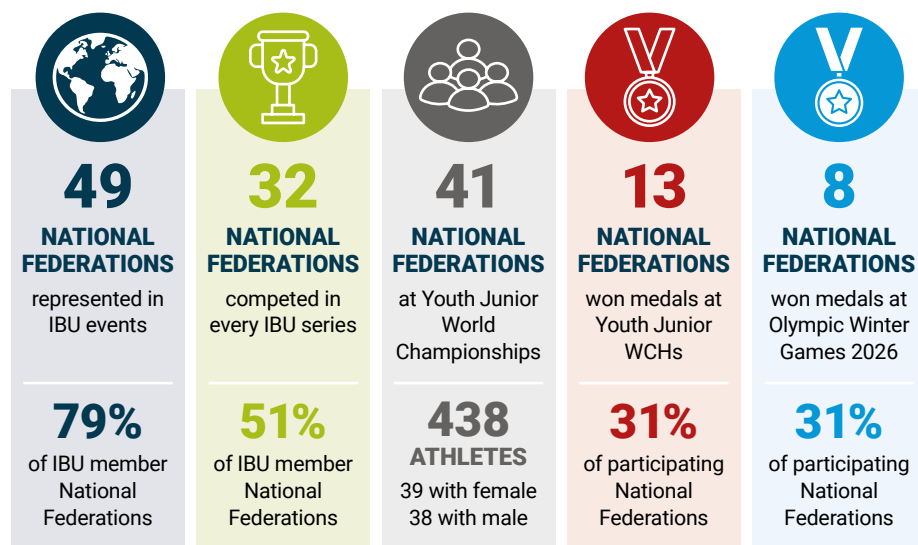
STEFAN SPORRER
CONTENT CREATOR

A SEASON OF PROGRESS

The 2025/2026 season continued the Development 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.

CLOSING THE COMPETITION GAP

SEASON 2025/2026 AT A GLANCE



At the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, 29 National Federations were represented. Athletes from eight National Federations (27%) reached the Olympic podium, demonstrating continued progress towards the Target 2030 ambition of achieving 10 medal-winning National Federations and 15 National Federations recording top 6 finishes at the Olympic Winter Games.

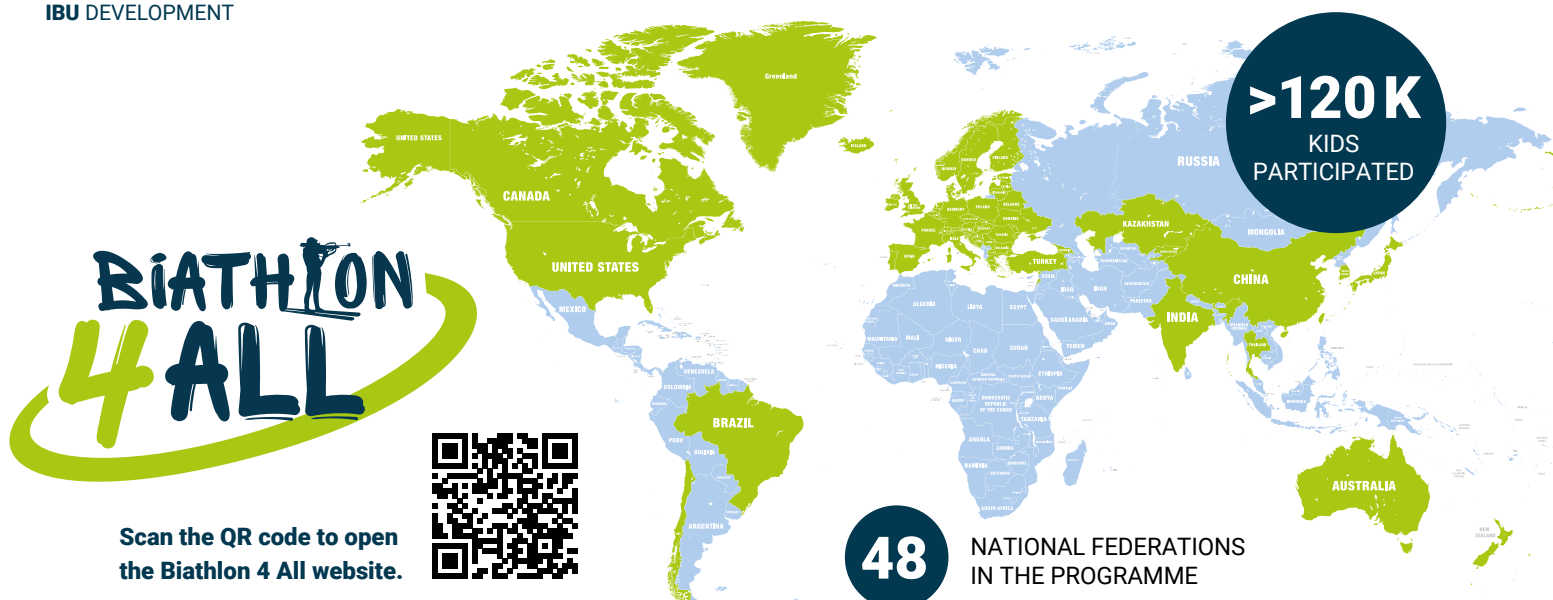
While significant progress has been made, Closing the Competition Gap remains a long-term strategic commitment. The IBU will continue working closely with National Federations to strengthen development pathways and move towards its Target 2030 goals of 15 National Federations achieving Top 10 World Cup results, 15 National Federations recording Top 6 Olympic Winter Games finishes, 10 National Federations winning Olympic medals and 10 National Federations winning medals at every Junior World Championships.

Closing the Competition Gap remains one of the IBU's key strategic priorities, aiming to create a stronger and more competitive international biathlon landscape by supporting National Federations in their long-term development. Through tailored development projects, expert support, education and strategic partnerships, the initiative helps federations build sustainable performance pathways and increase their competitiveness at the highest level.

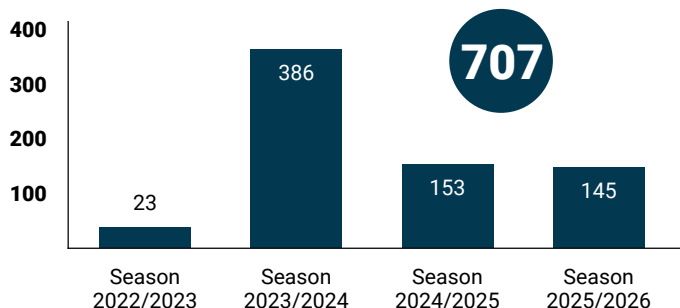
The 2025/2026 season demonstrated encouraging progress. A total of 49 National Federations (79%) were represented across IBU competitions, while 32 National Federations (51%) participated

in every IBU competition series, reflecting the growing depth and continuity of international participation.

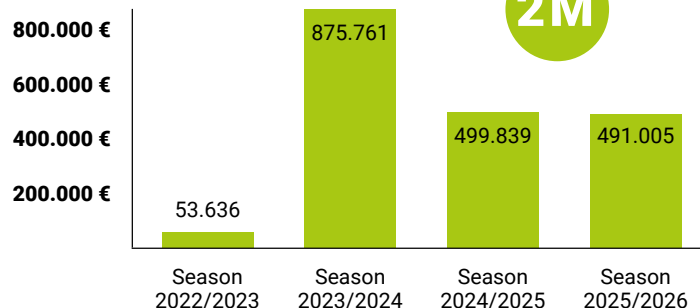
The Youth Junior World Championships brought together 41 National Federations and 438 athletes, including competitors from 39 National Federations in the women's events and 38 in the men's events. The championships also showcased increasing competitive balance, with 13 National Federations (31%) winning podium medals - an important step towards the Target 2030 objective of 10 medal-winning National Federations at each Youth Junior World Championships.



NUMBER OF LASER/ OPTICAL RIFLES IN BIATHLON 4 ALL 2022-2026



IBU INVESTMENT IN BIATHLON 4 ALL 2022-2026



MAY 2025

BIATHLON 4 ALL SUPPORT

Two rounds of distribution of laser/optical rifles took place during the year. In the spring, 13 NFs received equipment (call for applications 2024/2025), followed by eight more in the winter (call for applications 2025/2026). In addition, nine federations were pre-selected to receive their equipment in spring 2026, underlining the continued interest in and impact of the project.

MAY 2025

FIRST-EVER INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON DAY

IBU marked a historic milestone on 24 May 2025 with the first International Biathlon Day, part of the Biathlon 4 All initiative. This event was held in 22 countries, in collaboration with NFs, bringing biathlon and Para biathlon to communities around the world. A paid social media campaign was organised by the IBU for the following NFs: SLO, ESP, UKR and ROU, resulting in over 14m ad impressions and over 16k link clicks.



OCTOBER 2025

BIATHLON 4 ALL: 5,000 LOOP ONE VISITORS

Biathlon 4 All emerged as a major highlight of the inaugural edition of the Loop One Festival on 18-19 October 2025. The largest-ever Biathlon 4 All space attracted an impressive 5,000 visitors eager to experience the sport firsthand. To maximise fan participation, the IBU and its partners set up three shooting ranges with a total of 30 laser rifle lanes.

OCTOBER 2025

REVEAL OF BIATHLON 4 ALL MASCOT SHIBU

Biathlon 4 All welcomed its official mascot, Shibu (a name inspired by the Japanese dog Shiba Inu and mixed with the letters of IBU), adding a recognisable character and a playful identity to Biathlon 4 All. Shibu was created to strengthen the project's appeal to children, helping to introduce the sport in a friendly and engaging way, and supporting organisers in creating welcoming, child-focused activities at events and festivals.



NOVEMBER 2025

BIATHLON 4 ALL ONLINE MEETING

With new NFs joining, the IBU presented key milestones, principles and ambitions of the project, supported by a new video showcasing children's participation, Athlete Ambassador engagement and International Biathlon Day activities.



NOVEMBER 2025

IBU AND ISF SIGN MOU

The IBU and the International School Sport Federation (ISF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the IF Forum in Lausanne in October 2025 to promote biathlon in schools worldwide. The ISF will help expand the youth community via its network, while the IBU, through the Biathlon 4 All project, will support the work of the ISF.

FEBRUARY 2026

BIATHLON 4 ALL AT THE OLYMPICS

An engaging Biathlon 4 All activation took place at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, offering members of the Olympic family a unique opportunity to experience the thrill of biathlon firsthand. More than 1,000 guests joined the activation during the Winter Games. Most notably, an impromptu contest between Norwegian biathlon legend Johannes Thingnes Bø and Germany's football star Joshua Kimmich captured widespread interest, amassing two million views on Instagram. Other high-profile participants included Martin Fourcade, Ole Einar Bjørndalen and Jürgen Klopp, alongside members of the International Olympic Committee, National Olympic Committees, event staff and volunteers.

MARCH 2026

BIATHLON 4 ALL AT IBU PARTNER SUMMIT IN OSLO

The IBU Partner Summit, held from 17-19 March 2026 in Oslo, brought together broadcasters, partners and National Federations to reflect on the Olympic season. One of the key sessions focused on Biathlon 4 All, highlighting its growing role in developing the sport and creating value for partners. Dagmara Gerasimuk (IBU), Jörg Polzer (Infront) and Selina Gasparin (Swiss-Ski) talked about the rapid growth of mass participation sport, event activations, equipment branding, youth-focused campaigns and digital storytelling, as well as the programme implementation in Switzerland.



IBU ACADEMY COACH EDUCATION

"It was again a great experience, where I learned a lot from the instructors. The discussions between the different coaches are also always helpful. From my side, I can say that after the course, I already had some exchanges with other coaches from the course, where we helped each other. The course was really good and helpful for me."

PARTICIPANT OF THE SECOND LEVEL COURSE



BASIC LEVEL COURSE 2025

19 PARTICIPANTS | 17 NFs

Salzburg | Ruhpolding | IBU Headquarter

FIRST LEVEL COURSE 2025/2026

19 PARTICIPANTS | 17 NFs

Hochfilzen | Pokljuka | Ramsau

SECOND LEVEL COURSE 2024/2025

16 PARTICIPANTS | 15 NFs

Oberhof | Lillehammer | Ruhpolding

THIRD LEVEL COURSE 2024/2025

10 PARTICIPANTS | 9 NFs

Oslo | Oestersund | Salzburg

SECOND LEVEL COURSE 2025/2026

19 PARTICIPANTS | 17 NFs

Oberhof | Meraker | Ruhpolding

REGIONAL BASIC COURSES 2025

50 PARTICIPANTS | 8 NFs

Sapporo | Delnice | Jakuszyce

IBU ACADEMY WEBINARS AND SEMINARS

With the ongoing Olympic year, the IBU Academy launched two dedicated webinars focusing on **Olympic preparation** and athlete support. The Coach Webinar - Preparation for the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 provided valuable insights into planning, performance management and key considerations for the upcoming Winter Games. In parallel, the **Athlete Webinar - Media & The Athlete** supported athletes in

strengthening their media skills, communication strategies, and public presence ahead of a high-profile season.

28
EXPERTS
PRESENTED
AT WEBINARS &
SEMINARS

Additionally, the IBU Academy hosted an international seminar for coaches, athletes and staff on **Kids' Training - Key Principles for Success**, emphasising long-term athlete development and effective youth training approaches, as well as a Coach Webinar

- **The Power of Soft Skills in Coaching**, highlighting the importance of communication, leadership and interpersonal skills in coaching. The **IBU Technicians' Seminar 2025**, brought together technicians and officials to further expand their technical expertise and professional knowledge.

"I'm admiring the top-tier biathlon country and also respect that they are fully open to sharing their experiences. I know exactly what my nation has seen in the sport in the past 20 years [...] it is good for my guidance to recruit more kids and young people."

PARTICIPANT, COACH WEBINAR

IBU ACADEMY BECOMES OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COACHING EXCELLENCE

In December 2025, the IBU Academy became an official member of the ICCE, a global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to leading and developing sports coaching worldwide. By becoming an official ICCE member, the IBU Academy strengthens its access to international coaching resources and is recognised as a strong partner in discussions shaping the future of coaching. This membership supports active participation in global dialogue on modern and effective coach education.



ICCE
International Council for
Coaching Excellence

IBU ACADEMY DUAL CAREERS

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY DUAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES 2025/26

During the 2025/26 season, the IBU continued to collaborate in the dual career programmes with its university partnerships in **Oestersund**, Sweden and **Meråker**, Norway, helping athletes combine elite sport and education. International biathletes trained and studied within these high-performance environments, receiving regular coaching support from NFs while benefiting from academic opportunities at partner universities.



DC4
BIATHLETES

ERASMUS+ PROJECT

The **DC4Biathletes Erasmus+ project** advanced the **IBU's Dual Career Policy**, supporting athlete wellbeing and development. The project aims to help young biathletes successfully balance elite sport with education and future career pathways by providing practical guidance, educational resources and mental health topics through an innovative learning app, scheduled for release in 2027. Focus groups in Lillehammer and Imatra gathered dual career challenges insights, shaping the app's content to address athletes' real needs.



Scan the QR code to
open the DC4Biathletes
Erasmus+ project
website.

IBU ACADEMY COMMUNICATION

IBU ACADEMY WEBSITE

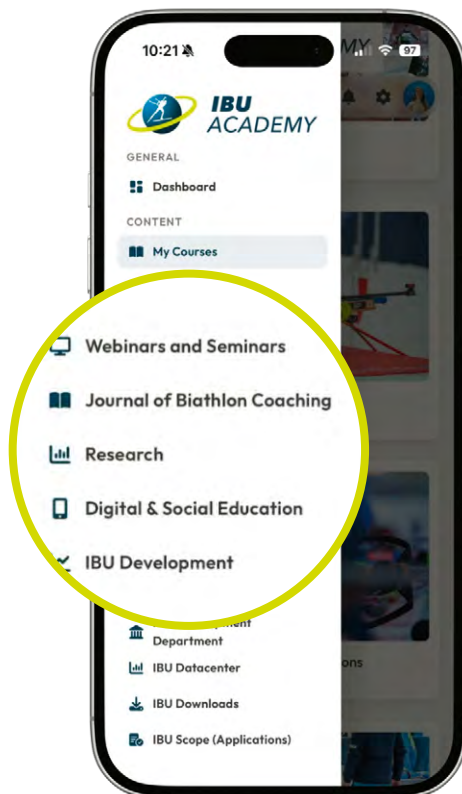
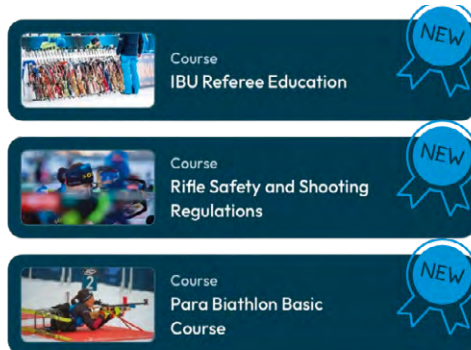
The IBU Academy website continues to serve as a central hub for information and easy access to educational and scientific opportunities. This season, the platform was further enhanced with the introduction of a dedicated **education** section featuring the **Para Biathlon Basic Course** and the **Regional Basic Courses**. In addition, the athlete-focused content was expanded through the inclusion of the **IBU Athlete Case Studies**, highlighting dual career opportunities and supporting athletes in balancing sport and professional development. To stay informed about updates on IBU Academy Programmes and their development, we invite you to **subscribe** to the **newsletter** on the IBU Academy website!



Scan the QR code to open the IBU Academy website

E-LEARNING PLATFORM: LEARNINGSUITE

- The IBU E-Learning Platform Learning-Suite continued to grow as a **Central Hub** for education and knowledge sharing within the biathlon family, now reaching **> 4,000 Subscribers worldwide**.
- With the launch of the **new mobile APP**, Users can access learning content more easily and flexibly than ever before.
- The **Hubs** bring together a wide range of biathlon knowledge and resources.
- Three **new courses** have been launched over the past year.



Scan the QR code to download the LearningSuite app

IBU ACADEMY PROMOTION TOUR STOPS

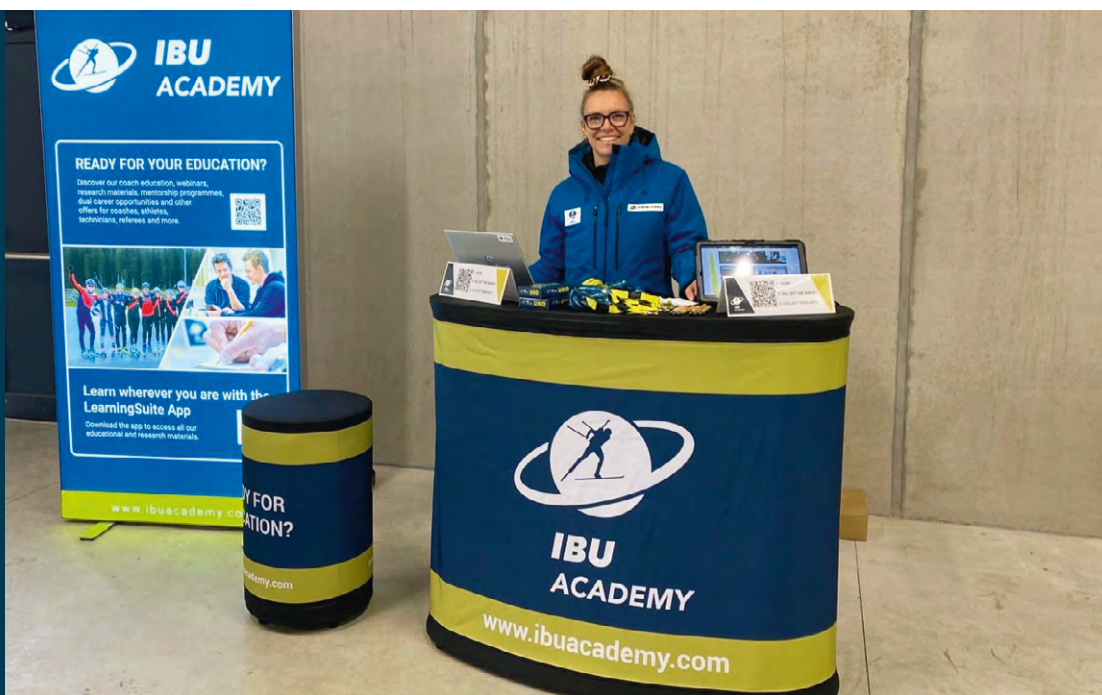
- ▶ CONNECT
- ▶ EXCHANGE
- ▶ INSPIRE

IBU CUP
OBERTILLIACH AUT

IBU JUNIOR CUP
MARTELL ITA

BMW IBU WORLD CUP
RUHPOLDING GER

IBU YJWCH
ARBER GER



IBU ACADEMY SCIENCE

RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME (RGP)

The IBU Academy continues to strengthen innovation in biathlon through the RGP, supporting projects that connect cutting-edge science with practical performance development. Four new projects were selected for the 2025/26 cycle:

- **Impact of altitude on shooting performance in biathlon** - University of Savoie Mont Blanc
- **Why do young biathletes stay or quit?** - Academy of Physical Education in Katowice
- **Realistic recoil simulation for round-free rifle training** - Salzburg Research
- **Effects of increasing exercise intensity on biathlon prone shooting in elite biathletes** - Finnish Institute of High-Performance Sport KIHU.

UNIVERSITY COOPERATIONS

Between August 2025 and April 2026, the IBU significantly expanded its academic and research network through three key partnerships: the **Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen (SFISM)**, the **Institute of Applied Training Science (IAT) Leipzig** and the **Nord University in Meråker**. These strategic collaborations mark an important step in strengthening the IBU's long-term commitment to combining elite sport with scientific excellence. By partnering now with six leading institutions, the IBU Academy further enhances its capacity to deliver high-quality coach education, advance applied research and foster innovation in biathlon performance and development.



JOURNAL OF BIATHLON COACHING

The IBU Academy released Issues 4 and 5 of the Journal of Biathlon Coaching, continuing its mission to bridge scientific research and coaching practice. Across both editions, a broad range of topics was explored, including training load and intensity distribution, shooting performance and biomechanics, mental toughness and athlete wellbeing, safeguarding strategies, coaches' soft skills and athlete development pathways. The journals also featured exclusive interviews with German Head Coach Sverre Roiseland and French Coach Christophe Vassallo, offering valuable insights into high-performance coaching and long-term success in biathlon.



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





IBU-IOC CAMPS

LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY (NEW IN 2025)

First-ever joint IBU-IOC and IBU-IPC development camp for Olympic and Para biathlon athletes and coaches.

ARBER GERMANY

Hosted at the venue of the upcoming IBU Youth Junior World Championships 2026, offering young athletes a high-performance international training environment.

GOMS SWITZERLAND

Focused on technical development, confidence building and preparation for the IBU Junior Cup season.



MORE THAN JUST A TRAINING CAMP

Throughout the 2025 development camps, young athletes and coaches took part in a series of educational and inspirational activities delivered by IBU experts, expert educators, elite coaches and former world-class athletes.

2025 CAMP EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- **Olympic Values Workshop** - Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports
- **Long-Term Athlete Development Workshop** - Knut Kuvås Brevik
- **Coaching Skills Workshop** - Matthias Ahrens
- **Anti-Doping & Safeguarding in Sport** - Lucie Rothauer, BIU
- **Race Preparation in Elite Biathlon** - Dominik Windisch
- **Session with Athlete Role Models** - Dominik Windisch, Thomas Bormolini
- **Performance in Sport** - Zibi Szlufcik
- **IBU Behind the Scenes** - Dagmara Gerasimuk
- **Mental Health in Biathlon** - Marie-Laure Brunet
- **Safety & Biathlon Rules** - Tomasz Bernat

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- **3 international camps**
- **10 educational sessions**
- **8 international speakers and experts**
- **4 Athlete Role Models**
- **Hundreds of young athletes and coaches engaged**

"I first attended the camps as an athlete, later returned as a National Federation coach, and today I am proud to support the programme as part of the IBU instructor network. The camps create long-term opportunities both for athletes and coaches."

SARA PONYA (HUN)

FORMER CAMP ATHLETE AND IBU INSTRUCTOR

REGIONAL EVENTS

Regional Events continued to develop during the season, serving as a pilot phase for the introduction of qualification events. For the first time, qualification points for juniors and seniors were awarded at selected Regional Events, strengthening both the competitive structure and the athlete development pathway. The 2025/2026 winter season acted as a transition phase, providing the foundation for further development.

- **38 NFs** from six regions took part (Europe, West Europe, Central-East Europe, North Europe, South Europe and North America)
- **New record of youth/junior participants: over 5,200**, compared to 4,138 in the 2024/25 season.

37

EVENTS

14

SUMMER
EVENTS

23

WINTER
EVENTS

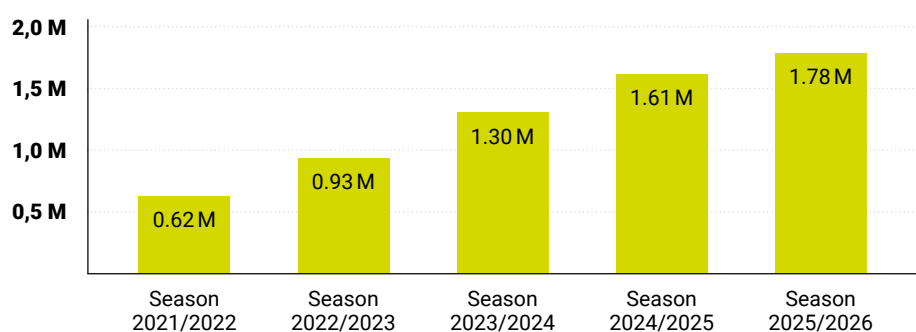
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Qualifying Point
calculation.

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS SUPPORT

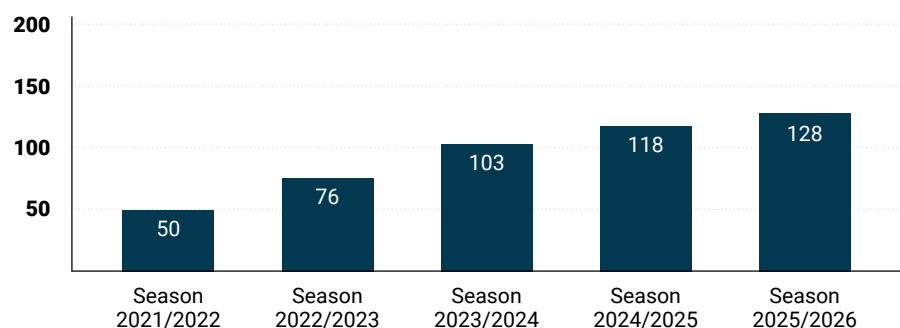
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUPPORT

The IBU EB allocated EUR 1.78 million to support 128 development projects to be distributed among 43 NFs. The most requested projects were NF Partnership's project types were NF partnerships, followed by the identification and training of youth and juniors, popularisation of biathlon among kids, gender equality and diversity, and athlete career transition support.

NFs DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – BUDGET APPROVED



NFs DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – NUMBER OF PROJECTS APPROVED

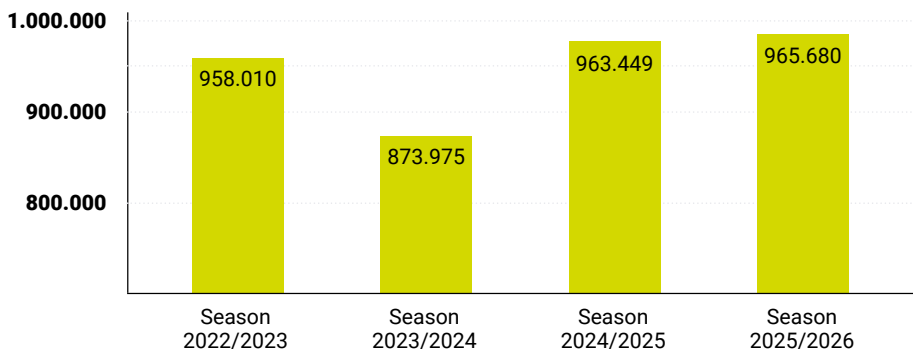


NATIONAL FEDERATIONS SUPPORT

MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION HOCHFILZEN

On 10–11 December 2025, the IBU Development Department delivered essential equipment to NFs worldwide through its annual Material Distribution. More than 1,000 pairs of gloves, 200+ pairs of skis and over 0.5 million rounds of ammunition were distributed, with support from 28 partners, reaching 37 NFs, with a total value of EUR 965,680.

MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION IN EURO



Scan the QR code to open the Material Distribution Report 2025

DEVELOPMENT INFO DAY

On 25 March 2026, the IBU organised its annual Development Info Day through two online sessions for NFs. The meetings provided an overview of the key development projects and initiatives for the 2026/2027 season, helping NFs understand the latest updates, available support measures and relevant application deadlines.



LIATOPPEN BIATHLON FESTIVAL

The Liatoppen Biathlon Festival, the world's largest youth biathlon event, hosted more than 1,050 participants aged 10 to 16, creating an exciting and inspiring environment for the next generation of the sport. As part of the IBU's Development Programme, young athletes from 10 nations gathered for this unique international training camp. The camp brought together athletes from Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Greenland, Kazakhstan and Poland.

GENDER EQUALITY

DIVERSITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION (DEI)

As part of its commitment to promoting diversity, equality and inclusion in the sport, the IBU launched a new DEI Working Group in May 2025. This group will guide the evolution from the Gender Equality Strategy 2026 to a broader DEI Strategy 2030, in line with the IBU's Target 2030 goals.

In March 2026, the IBU released its new Diversity, Equality and Inclusion strategy 2026-2030, which guides the IBU's actions across five focus areas, helping ensure that biathlon remains a welcoming, accessible and inspiring pursuit for everyone. By embracing diversity and promoting belonging, the IBU aims to strengthen the spirit of unity that defines the global biathlon community and ensure the sport continues to reflect the values of fairness, respect and togetherness at every level.



partner SheSkillzGlobal - ensuring a holistic perspective on leadership. The programme concluded in Lausanne, Switzerland, where mentees presented the results of their group projects to leaders from the International Biathlon Union and members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME 2025/26

In July 2025, 17 mentees from 13 NFs embarked on a 10-month mentorship journey, "Shaping Tomorrow's Biathlon Leaders" to grow into confident and impactful leaders. Following the kick-off meeting in Salzburg, Austria, the group participated in comprehensive webinars that empowered them in their roles within their NFs. Each participant was matched with two dedicated mentors - one from the world of biathlon and one from the project

IBU ACADEMY RECOGNISED BY THE IOC

The IBU Coach Education Programme has been formally recognised by the IOC as a good practice initiative in its publication Good Practices to Encourage Women Coaches in International Federations. This external recognition affirms the IBU Academy's efforts to build strong development pathways for coaches at all levels of biathlon.





IBU STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY



ABOUT IBU STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The implementation of Target 2030, the IBU's long-term strategic framework, is now in full swing. It leverages the progress achieved under Target 26 but also places a strong emphasis on cooperative engagement across the biathlon family, recognising that long-term success depends on shared responsibility, operational excellence and the ability to adapt to changing environmental, social and commercial realities.

In the last year, implementation focused on four strategic priorities: closing the competition gap; developing a modern, sustainable and fan-focused sport and

event concept; analysing and evolving the IBU's commercial model; and embedding integrity, governance and sustainability across all areas of the sport.

Within sustainability, the IBU focuses on concrete action, innovation and strategic partnerships that strengthen the resilience of biathlon. Current priorities include emissions reduction through collaborative initiatives; climate adaptation planning; the integration of sustainability criteria into event delivery; and the development of future-oriented solutions such as resource-efficient snow management.



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

The IBU continued to strengthen its position as a leader in sustainability through major international recognition, new strategic initiatives and ongoing integration of sustainability into the implementation of Target 2030.



A landmark achievement came in February 2026, when the IBU was awarded the IOC Climate Action Award in the International Federation category. The award recognised the IBU's pioneering work as a leading Olympic sport in this field over the last six years.

This period also marked a review of the IBU's Sustainability Strategy 2020–2030, which included a double materiality assessment and led to the development of a new, concise IBU Sustainability Roadmap 2025–2030. This revised blueprint represents a shift to an impact-driven framework, focused on measurable outcomes and long-term resilience.

The roadmap consolidates the previous 57 sustainability targets into 10 material focuses. Another key shift is the move from activity-based reporting to measurable impact KPIs, emphasising real-world outcomes such as emissions reduction, renewable energy use, waste diversion and climate readiness across events and operations.

Athlete engagement remains a central pillar of the IBU's sustainability activities. In June 2025, the IBU appointed its third cohort of Sustainability Athlete Ambassadors, empowering athletes to promote climate awareness, sustainable lifestyles, and the long-term viability of snow sports.

The IBU also continued to deliver impact across the wider sports sector through collaborative partnerships and Erasmus+-funded projects, such as SIEPPUR and BENCHES.

Despite the adverse geopolitical environment, the IBU maintains its ambitious climate targets and continues to lead the way in sustainability within international sport.



MAY 2025

SIEPPUR FINAL CONFERENCE: SUSTAINABLE SNOW SUMMIT INNSBRUCK

The **Sustainable Snow Summit 2025** in Innsbruck marked the conclusion of the EU co-funded **SIEPPUR** project. Launched in 2022, it explored snow management practices across 10 biathlon venues and outlined future roadmaps to help Nordic skiing adapt to climate change.

JUNE 2025

IBU AND BIU ATHLETE AMBASSADORS FOR 2025–2027

The IBU and BIU continued their **Athlete Ambassador programme** with 10 Athlete Ambassadors for the **2025–2027** term. Hailing from seven countries, the Athlete Ambassadors actively contribute to strengthening trust and integrity in biathlon, while promoting a culture rooted in sustainability, equality, and fairness.



OCTOBER 2025

STRONG SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS AT LOOP ONE

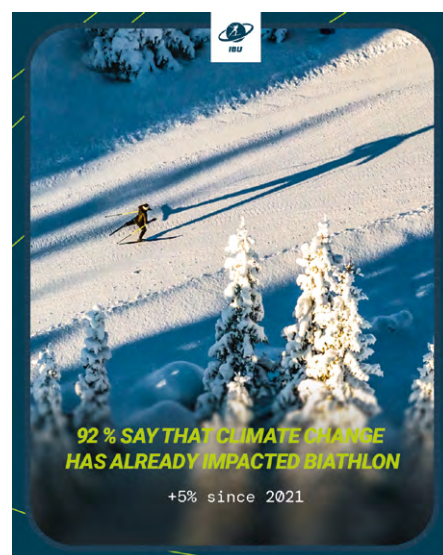
Held in Munich's Olympiapark, the first edition of the Loop One Festival brought together environmental, social and economic sustainability initiatives across every aspect of the festival. A post-event report provided a comprehensive overview of achievements, learnings and future opportunities.



JANUARY 2026

ATHLETE SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY 2025

To better understand athletes' perspectives on climate and sustainability, the IBU partnered with its **Sustainability Athlete Ambassadors** to survey the biathlon athletes at the start of the **2025/2026** season. Results show a growing sense of urgency, with **92%** of athletes saying climate change already impacts biathlon and **72%** reporting personal effects.



OCTOBER 2025

IBU ADVANCES BIODIVERSITY THROUGH BENCHES PROJECT

The IBU continued strengthening its biodiversity efforts through the **Erasmus+-funded BENCHES** project, and participated in reviewing progress and **exchanging** strategies for protecting biodiversity in sport at the **mid-term** conference in Lisbon, Portugal. As part of the initiative, the IBU piloted a new biodiversity assessment tool at the **IBU Junior Cup** in Martell, Italy, testing its application with the Local Organising Committee to support more sustainable event practices.



NOVEMBER 2025

COP30: IBU SUPPORTS MUTIRÃO DECISION FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The IBU joined fellow signatories of the **Sports for Climate Action Framework** in a collective appeal to global leaders gathering in Brazil for **COP30** - the United Nations Climate Change Conference - calling on governments and major institutions to leverage the influence of sport to elevate climate action to the next level.

JANUARY 2026

IBU INSTALL PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM ON ITS HQ ROOF

Former German world champion **Benedikt Doll**, in collaboration with long-standing Climate Partner **Viessmann**, launched his new video series **"Benni on Tour"**. In the opening episode, Benni meets the IBU sustainability team and explores the federation's commitment to climate-friendly operations, including the newly installed **320 m² photovoltaic system** on the IBU HQ rooftop.



FEBRUARY 2026

IBU WINS IOC CLIMATE ACTION AWARD 2025

During the **145th IOC Session** at the **Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026**, the **International Biathlon Union** was announced as the winner of the **IOC Climate Action Award 2025** in the **International Federation** category, in recognition of its **Athlete Ambassador programme**. This innovative initiative equips biathletes to champion sustainability both within the sport and beyond. Additionally, earlier this year, the IBU and EBU were shortlisted for the **Sport Positive Awards 2025** for their innovative partnership reducing in sports broadcasting's environmental impact.



MARCH 2026

1,281 TREES FOR THE FOREST OF CHAMPIONS

Throughout the winter, the IBU and its Climate Partner Viessmann continued turning sporting success into environmental action through the Forest of Champions project, planting one tree sapling for every athlete or team reaching the podium or flower ceremony across all IBU events, with 25 nations contributing. A total of 1,281 trees have been planted by the IBU staff, with the support of the Bavarian Forestry Commission, in the Untersberg region near the IBU's HQ in Anif, Austria.



ACTIVITIES OUTLOOK 2026/2027



In the next 12 months, the IBU will roll out its new Roadmap to 2030, building on the existing **Sustainability Strategy 2020 - 2030** and based on a thorough **Double Materiality Analysis** conducted in 2025. Simultaneously, the carbon reporting year will align with the IBU's financial year (May to April), and reporting will transition to the EU's VSME standard.



A strategic priority will be to further collaboration with Organising Committees to advance sustainability measures at IBU events. In this context, the Loop One Festival 2026 serves as a **"Sustainability Lab"**, providing an opportunity to test and evaluate innovative sustainability measures. These can then be shared with organisers as state-of-the-art examples across the IBU event portfolio.



IBU COMMUNICATIONS



ABOUT IBU COMMUNICATIONS

The 2025/2026 season marked a defining period for the IBU's communications activities, driven by the momentum of the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, as well as rapid digital expansion and record-breaking audience engagement across platforms. Strategic priorities focused on maximising biathlon's global visibility, strengthening digital structures and reinforcing the foundations for the future growth of biathlon.

On the media side, the IBU advanced key projects like the National Federation Digital Content Rights Agreement (2025/2026). Milano Cortina 2026 delivered record exposure, with biathlon topping winter federations for social media engagement (IOC data). TV viewership doubled in Italy and rose sharply in France.

Communications activities focused heavily on the Reach 26 initiative, which generated unprecedented digital results during the Olympic Winter Games period. Compared to previous benchmarks, the

initiative delivered 20x more impressions, 116x more video views, a 900% increase in engagement and a 20% follower growth during the Olympic Winter Games alone. Across all IBU platforms, the channels recorded 850,000 unique website users, 350,000 app users and 65 million total interactions.

The season featured investment in digital projects, athlete storytelling and the Loop One Festival as a fan engagement platform. Expanded influencer marketing drove a record year for digital revenues.

While the results confirmed the success of the IBU's digital and communication strategy, the season also highlighted operational challenges linked to the exceptional workload placed on the team. Ensuring sustainable performances will therefore be a key priority for the 2026/2027 season, alongside maintaining the momentum behind the record growth achieved across all communication channels.



CHRISTIAN WINKLER
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHRISTIAN WINKLER
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

RENÉ DENFELD
HEAD OF DIGITAL

MARIYA OSOLODKINA
WC MEDIA MANAGER

LORENZO GIOVACCHINI
DIGITAL MARKETING MANAGER

CHRISTIAN MANZONI
PHOTO MANAGER

LAURA FRITZENWENGER
IBU JUNIOR DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

JAKA LUCU
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER

CONTENT CREATORS
SOCIAL, PHOTO, VIDEO, EDITORS

RIDING THE MOMENTUM: IBU'S RECORD SEASON

Milano Cortina 2026 marked a historic milestone for biathlon, delivering unprecedented global reach, record-breaking audiences and explosive digital growth - cementing its place as the most successful Olympic Winter Games edition in the sport's history and Europe's most-watched winter discipline. The season also saw strategic investments in digital innovation, athlete-driven storytelling and the Loop One Festival, while expanded influencer marketing fuelled a breakout year for digital revenues.





SOCIAL MEDIA MILANO CORTINA 2026 RECORD OLYMPIC ENGAGEMENT

A digital surge at Milano Cortina 2026 didn't just break records - it rocketed engagement to new heights.

448 M IMPRESSIONS

BEIJING 2022



MILANO CORTINA 2026



20x
INCREASE



313 M VIDEO VIEWS

BEIJING 2022



MILANO CORTINA 2026



116x
INCREASE



15 M ENGAGEMENT

BEIJING 2022



MILANO CORTINA 2026



900%
INCREASE



The global biathlon community welcomed 840,000 new followers during the Olympic season.

+840K
NEW
FOLLOWERS

40M+
ATHLETE SOCIAL
MEDIA VIEWS

Athlete-generated content amplified biathlon with more than 40 million views.

10M
INFLUENCER
COLLABORATION
VIEWS

Influencer partnerships delivered 10 million views and reached new audiences.

BIATHLON CAPTIVATES OLYMPIC TV AUDIENCES

Biathlon delivered strong Olympic broadcast audiences across Europe, attracting millions of viewers and leading market shares in key winter sports nations. From Germany and France to Norway, Czechia, Italy and Finland, the sport consistently ranked among the most-watched events of the Winter Games and set several national viewing records.



GERMANY

- Women's Mass Start (ARD Sportschau): **5.75m** viewers, **45%** market share (highest of all Olympic broadcasts on the channel)
- Mixed Relay (ZDF): **6.638m** viewers, **46%** market share



FRANCE

- Women's Mass Start (France 2): **6.5m** viewers, **52%** market share
- Mixed Relay: **5.8m** viewers, **47%** market share



CZECHIA

- Mixed Relay (CT Sport): **1.7m** average viewers, **55%** market share (highest audience for any biathlon event ever)



ITALY

- Women's Sprint (RAI): **2.73m** viewers, **24%** market share (national record)



FINLAND

- Mixed Relay (YLE): **1.7m** viewers (one of the most-watched sports)

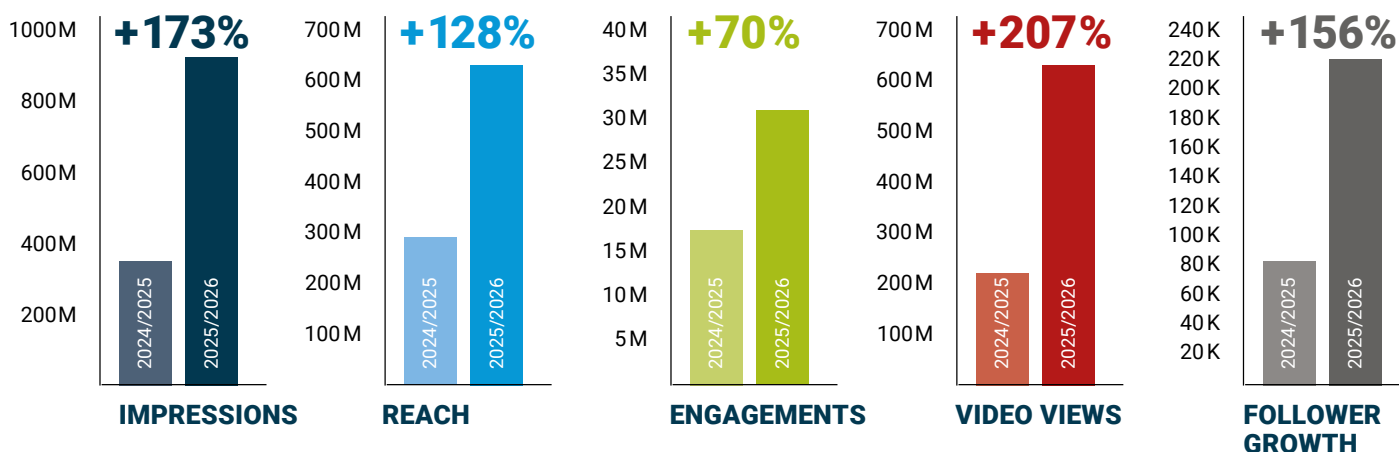


NORWAY

- Mixed Relay (NRK): **900k** peak viewers, **90%** market share

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT EXPLOSION

The 2025/2026 season saw unprecedented social media growth for biathlon, with impressions soaring by **173%** and video views jumping **207%**. Reach, interactions and follower growth all surged, cementing the sport's digital dominance.



ATHLETE PORTRAIT SERIES GOING VIRAL

During Summer and Autumn 2025, the IBU produced a total of 14 video features showcasing the sport's biggest names and medal contenders for Milano Cortina 2026. The videos visited the athletes at home, bringing fans closer to the people behind the rifle. The "More Than A Biathlete" series generated:

- Over **350k** views on the IBU YouTube channel
- Multiple viral reels

The portraits were aired and incorporated into key markets' biathlon programming, elevating the sport's biggest personalities ahead of the Olympic Winter Games.



IBU APP

GROWTH CONTINUES



THE
OFFICIAL
IBU APP

The IBU App's 2025/2026 performance outpaced the previous year across all metrics.

+20%

RETURNING
ACTIVE
USERS

+24%

AVERAGE
SESSION
DURATION

+31%

INSTALLED
DEVICES

+34%

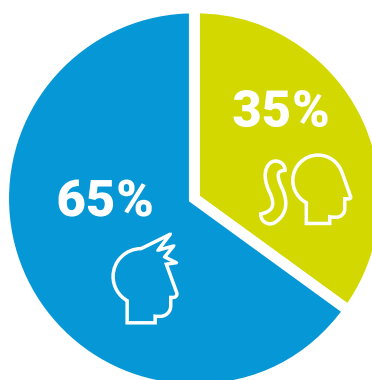
MONTHLY
ACTIVE
USERS

+44%

IBU APP
DOWNLOADS

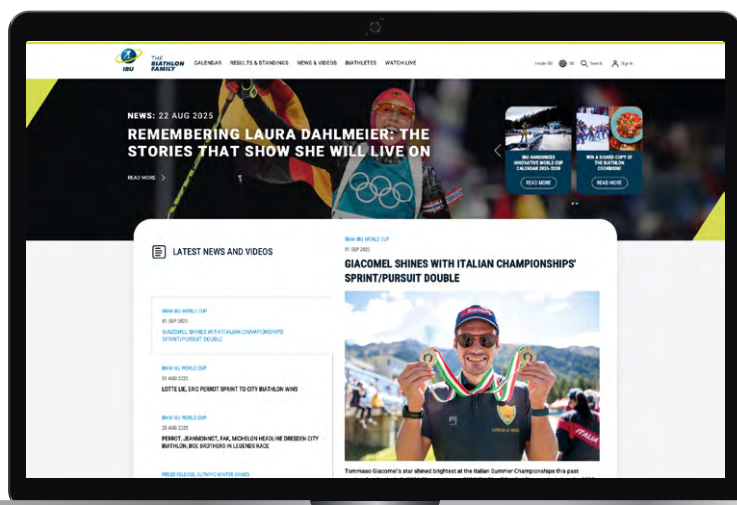
IBU App demographics: a young, balanced audience

The IBU App attracts a relatively gender-balanced (65% male, 35% female) and young audience, with the 25–34 age group leading engagement. Compared to other winter federations, the IBU stands out as the most gender-balanced, proving its broad appeal.



BIATHLONWORLD.COM LOYALTY AT THE CORE

The IBU website's 2025/2026 performance saw 39.5 million page views, a 16% year-to-year increase, while **MAU** (monthly active users) surged by **61%** and **RAU** (returning active users) grew by **62%**. The rise in MAU and RAU is especially significant - it signals not just more visitors, but a loyal, engaged audience that keeps coming back, deepening their connection with biathlon's digital ecosystem.



GLOBAL FAN MAGNET

Each World Cup event reached **35 million people** on average across **18 key markets**, including Eurosport's audience.

**WORLD CUP TV AUDIENCE
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

The 2025/2026 Biathlon World Cup season delivered record-breaking TV engagement, reaching 35 million viewers per event and 107 million unique fans across 18 European markets, with 391 million total hours viewed. Standout performances in Norway, Sweden and Finland drove live viewing shares above 51%. A balanced gender split and strong youth engagement underscored biathlon's broad appeal. The season's success was fuelled by live broadcasts, rising digital consumption and the star power of athletes.

**MASSIVE
SEASONAL REACH**

Over the season, **107 million people** watched at least one minute of biathlon action across **16 broadcasters**.

**LIVE PASSION
UNMATCHED**

Fans devoted **391 million hours** to biathlon, with **371 million watching live**, a testament to the sport's gripping, real-time appeal.

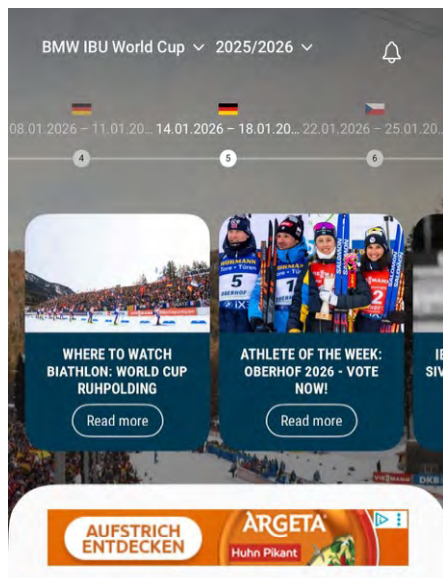


MILLIONS ENGAGED WEEKLY

Every World Cup drew an average of **6.1 million viewers**, cementing biathlon as a must-watch event on the winter sports calendar.

BIATHLON INSIDER REDESIGNED

The Biathlon Insider newsletter got a **stylish summer redesign**, attracting new subscribers and now boasting **56,000 subscribers** with an open rate exceeding 60%. With 330,000 monthly active endpoints across push notifications and emails, the tailored content and partner messages are reaching broader, more engaged audiences than ever.



DIGITAL SPONSORSHIP SMART AND CREATIVE

Argeta's digital sponsorship demonstrated high-impact sports marketing. Its "smart, creative sponsorship" approach elevated a regional brand to a global stage by aligning with biathlon's active, outdoor lifestyle.

The partnership demonstrated how targeted activation, product-audience synergy, and shared values can elevate a regional brand globally.

The Brotzeit concept transformed race days into social media-driven consumption moments, between 23 Dec 2025 and 26 Jan 2026, delivering:

- 5.8m** web/App impressions
- 165k** social media impressions
- 84k** opened emails
- 68%** newsletter open rate



PUBLISHING PARTNERSHIP GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT POWERS BIATHLON'S POPULARITY RISE IN ITALY

The IBU's editorial partnership with Gazzetta dello Sport - Italy's most trusted sports media institution - turned the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 into a springboard for biathlon's visibility. By leveraging the newspaper's unmatched reach, the campaign delivered standout results:

1.2m page views on Gazzetta dello Sport's platform

910k visits to the dedicated biathlon section

Top 5 most-read articles during the Winter Games - five times over

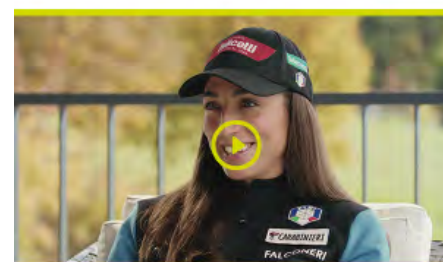
200k views for exclusive athlete portraits and interviews with Wierer and Vittozzi

A masterclass in strategic storytelling, this collaboration didn't just amplify biathlon - it made it unmissable for Italian sports fans.



La regina del biathlon italiano, Dorothea Wierer, è pronta all'ultimo capitolo della sua immensa carriera con le Olimpiadi di casa dove spera di lasciare ancora una volta il segno.

GUARDA ORA



La storia di Lisa Vittozzi è quella di un'araba fenice: dopo ogni periodo buio, tra infortuni e dubbi, è sempre tornata ai vertici del biathlon mondiale. Ora vuole far sognare l'Italia alle Olimpiadi di casa.

GUARDA ORA

BIATHLON DOCUMENTARY SKI FAST - SHOOT CLEAN

In February, the International Biathlon Union introduced biathlon fans - both new and longtime - to a groundbreaking experience: Ski Fast - Shoot Clean, an intimate documentary series that offered an unprecedented look into the athletes' world, letting the sport's global stars share its story in their own words.

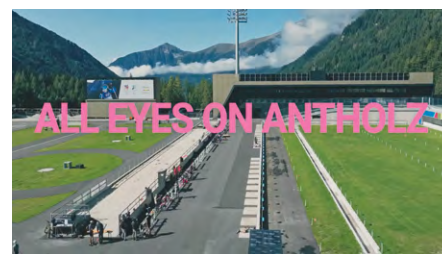
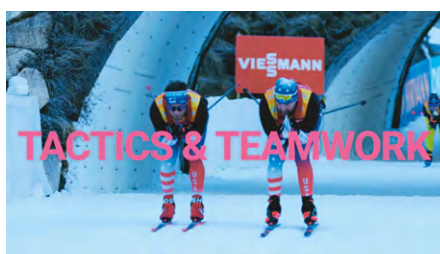
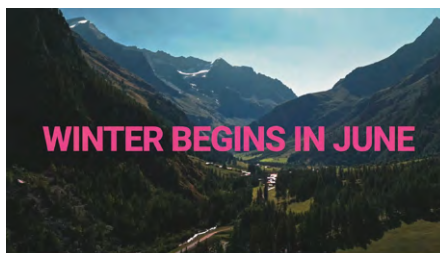
The six-part series premiered on 2 February 2026 on the IBU's YouTube channel, with one



Scan the QR code
to watch the
documentary

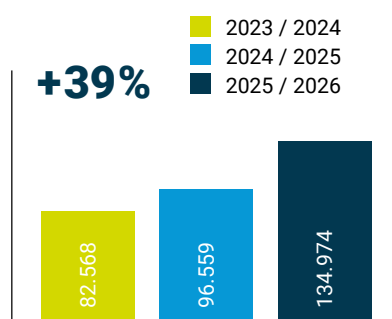
10-12 minute episode released daily through 7 February, leading directly into the first biathlon competitions at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. Told by the athletes themselves,

Ski Fast - Shoot Clean explained biathlon from the inside: what it takes to succeed, what makes the sport addictive to watch and what it costs to perform when the margins are so small.

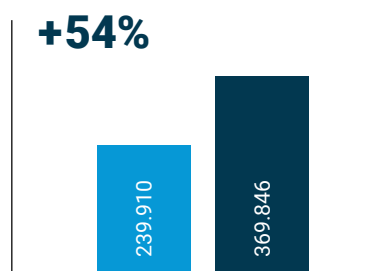


MEDAL PREDICTOR CORTINA MILANO 2026

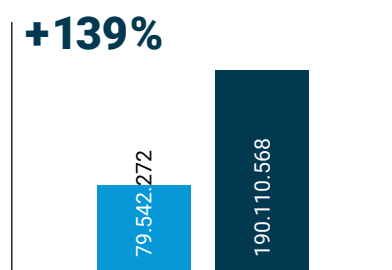
The Medal Predictor campaign for IBU events held in Antholz during Milano Cortina 2026 delivered **10.4m impressions**, generated **138.9k outbound clicks** and achieved a 1.33% click-through rate (CTR) through paid media. Combined with **44,841 total registrations** (11,062 new in 2026), **15,676 active users** and **1.3m website views**, it proved highly effective in driving engagement and retention among biathlon fans, also leveraging former biathlon stars - Kaisa Makarainen, Tarjei Boe and Benedikt Doll - as experts.



APP INSTALLS



CLICKS TO WEB



IMPRESSIONS

PERFORMANCE MARKETING STRONG DELIVERANCE

Performance marketing is a digital advertising strategy where advertisers run highly targeted and measurable campaigns with specific goals, such as reaching new audiences, increasing downloads, or gaining more newsletter registrations. Building on the previous year's success, our six localised campaigns (5 languages) - supported by 580+ creative assets - drove strong year-on-year growth:

Reach and engagement: The 139% surge in impressions in 2025/2026 reflects a scalable, high-impact strategy, fuelled by multiple creative assets and multilingual localisation.

Conversion efficiency: while 2024/2025 had a 25% conversion rate, 2025/2026's +39% app installs suggest improved targeting and creative optimization.

Audience engagement: the 5.18% CTR on Meta Ads (2024/2025) set a high bar, but 2025/2026's +54% clicks to web indicate stronger call-to-action performance.

Conclusion: 2025/2026 didn't just build on 2024/2025's success - it amplified it, proving that scalability, localisation and creative diversity are the keys to sustained digital growth.



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 processing, cash management and the investment of securities in accordance with defined guidelines. Other core tasks include payroll, travel expense and credit card administration, and the management of suppliers, members and partners, as well as collaboration with banks, auditors, tax advisors and legal counsel. 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.

In addition, the department is responsible for HR-related matters, including time recording; preparing contracts with employees, consultants and contractors; insurance management; office administration; and procurement. It ensures compliance with EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), oversees risk management and safeguards the organisation's trademarks.

In the IT 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 organised to ensure that employees are well prepared in a fast-paced environment. Security is a top priority, with ongoing enhancements to cybersecurity measures and the maintenance of an emergency manual. Ongoing user support ensures that the team can maintain seamless communication across the organisation.



HANNES KLEINEISEN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION

HANNES KLEINEISEN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION

NICOLE DENKSTEIN
LEGAL AND INSURANCES

CAROLA WOJAK
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

BEATRIX KRUMBÖCK
ACCOUNTING AND PAYROLL

ANDREA DANIEL
ACCOUNTING

SABINE AIGNER
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 Federal Law of Associations, the IBU qualifies as a major association and is therefore subject to the accounting and financial reporting requirements of the Austrian Commercial Code (UGB).

The financial statements for the period from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2026 were prepared in accordance 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 recognised only when realised by the balance sheet date.

The audit was conducted by Crowe SOT GmbH, Vienna, in accordance with the applicable legal and statutory requirements and the International Standards on Auditing. The financial statements received an unqualified audit opinion.

To enhance transparency, the following analysis presents the release of the temporarily restricted reserve (IOC) within income.

INCOME STATEMENT 2025/2026 – YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON

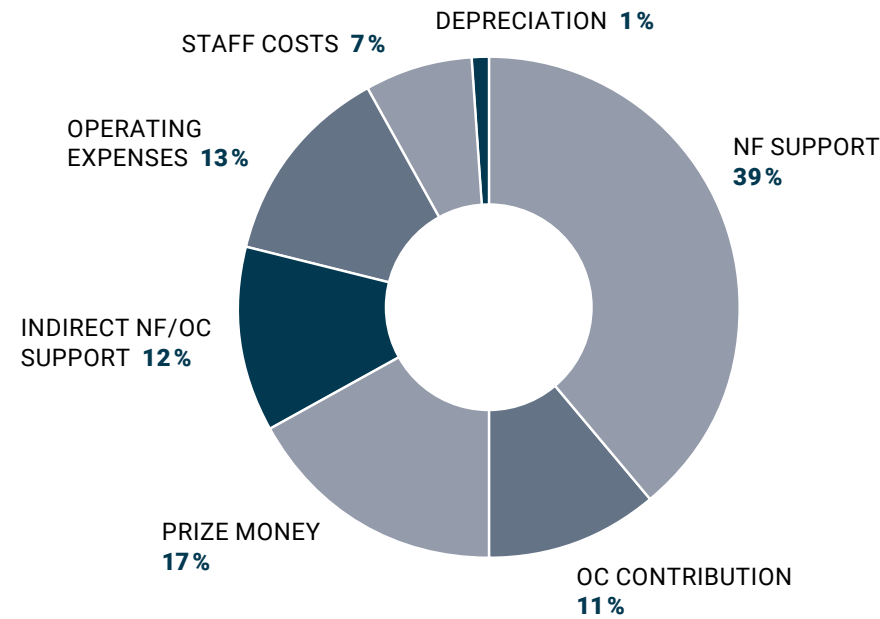
	REVENUES / EXPENSES	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025	FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026
	Total Income (incl. IOC)	€ 56,236,549	€ 58,009,881
	Total Expenses	- € 54,344,704	- € 55,913,536
30 Apr 26	Operating Surplus	€ 1,891,845	€ 2,096,345
	Impairment of Shares in IBU GmbH	€ 0	- € 3,190,000
	Other Financial Items	€ 2,556,182	€ 2,429,861
	Income Taxes	- € 281,481	- € 372,967
30 Apr 26	Annual Surplus	€ 4,166,547	€ 963,239
	Allocation to Restricted Reserves	- € 2,725,000	- € 1,569,000
	Accumulated Surplus	€ 2,656,137	€ 4,097,683
30 Apr 26	Balance Sheet Surplus	€ 4,097,683	€ 3,491,922

Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine and the continued suspension of the National Federations of Russia and Belarus, the IBU delivered another strong overall result in 2025/26. Media and marketing revenues remained stable compared with the previous year. The increase in total income to over EUR 58 million was primarily driven by the release of the remaining temporarily restricted reserve (IOC), amounting to EUR 6.2 million (previous year: EUR 4.3 million). On the expenditure side, higher investments in support for National Federations, Para biathlon and promotional activities led to an increase in operating expenses. As a result, an **operating surplus** of EUR 2.1 million was achieved.

The **financial result** from financial investments remained very positive in 2025/2026, generating EUR 2.4 million and marking the third consecutive year of strong investment performance. After including the result of IBU GmbH, which is recognised under the financial result as an investment in an affiliated entity, the overall financial result amounted to a loss of EUR 0.8 million.

After income taxes, the **annual surplus** amounted to EUR 1 million. In line with the Congress decision, EUR 1.6 million was allocated to restricted reserves. Together with the accumulated surplus from the previous year of EUR 4.1 million, the **balance sheet surplus** at 30 April 2026 amounts to EUR 3.5 million.

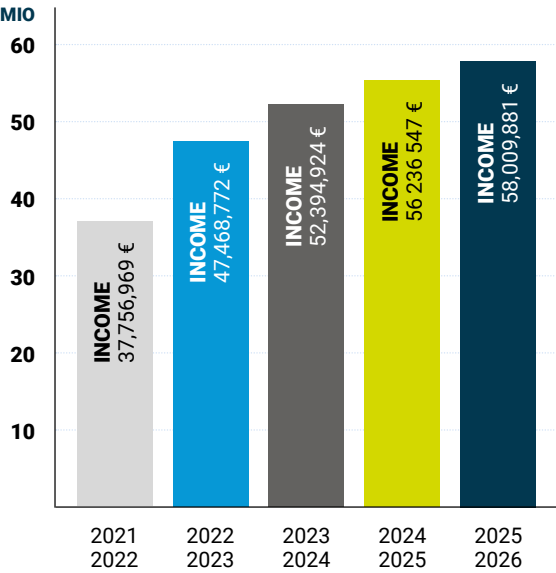
EXPENSES BY CATEGORY FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26



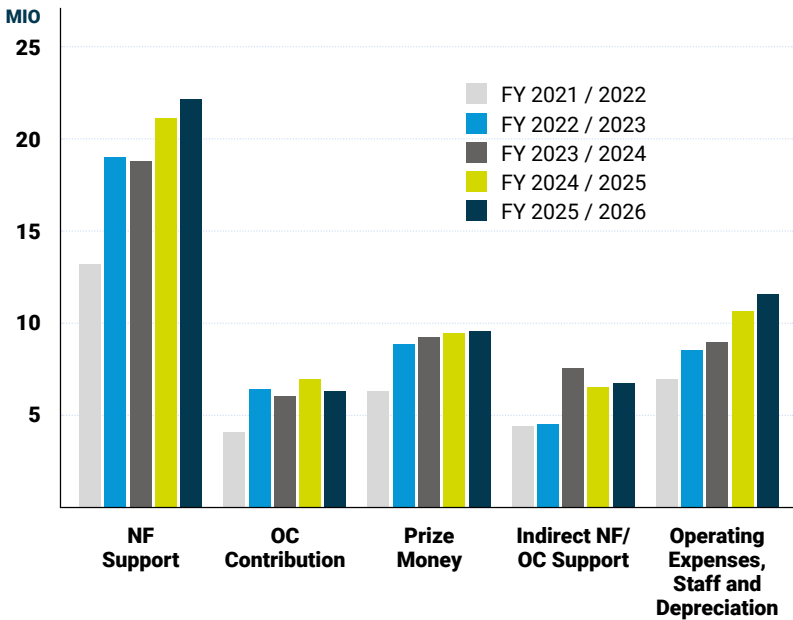
EXPENSE	FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026
NF Support	€ 21,907,416
OC Contribution	€ 6,295,154
Prize Money	€ 9,519,846
Indirect NF/OC Support	€ 6,702,567
Operating Expenses	€ 7,271,309
Staff Costs	€ 3,712,569
Depreciation	€ 504,675
Total Expenses	€ 55,913,536

An analysis of expenses by category shows that both NF support and operating expenses increased compared with the previous year, the latter primarily due to higher expenditure on promotional activities. In total, **NF support, OC contribution** and **indirect NF/OC support** represented **62%** of total expenses. A further **17%** was allocated to prize money, while the remaining **21%** was spent on overhead and administrative costs.

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF INCOME AND EXPENSES



The four-year comparison highlights a strong and consistent increase in total income, from EUR 47.5 million in 2022/2023 to EUR 58 million in 2025/2026. The additional revenues were primarily directed towards support for NFs, OCs and athletes.



Overhead costs - covering operating expenses, staff costs and depreciation - remained well controlled, despite the increased scale and complexity of operations. At the same time, the continued expansion of activities is gradually reducing the remaining capacity within the organisation.

EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT

EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT	FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025	FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026
Total Income (incl. IOC)	€ 56,236,547	€ 58,009,881
Sport & Event (incl. payments NFs, OCs, Prize Money)	- € 35,506,904	- € 35,449,934
Communications	- € 3,551,154	- € 4,348,828
BIU	- € 2,801,000	- € 2,554,168
Development	- € 5,592,779	- € 6,564,820
Finance & Administration	- € 3,690,538	- € 3,139,732
Strategy & Sustainability & Para Biathlon	- € 3,202,327	- € 3,856,054
Total Costs	- € 54,344,702	- € 55,913,536
Operating Result	€ 1,891,845	€ 2,096,345

Note: Departmental income is shown in "Total Income" rather than being reported within the respective department, while the related expenses remain allocated to the department. NF support and OC contribution are allocated to departments based on their respective responsibilities.

This overview shows the expenses by department compared with the previous year. The year-on-year changes primarily reflect increased investment in National Federation support, Para biathlon and promotional initiatives.

RESTRICTED RESERVES

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

Restricted Reserves according to

Congress Decision: the IBU 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 1.6 million in 2025/2026 to increase the reserve to EUR 55.9 million, in line with this requirement.

Temporarily Restricted Reserves: the Executive Board resolved to distribute the IOC funds over the Olympic quadrennium by holding them in a temporarily restricted reserve. During 2025/2026, the remaining balance from the previous quadrennium was fully released and utilised. In the same year, EUR 2.5 million of newly received IOC funds was allocated to a new temporarily restricted reserve, resulting in a closing balance of EUR 2.5 million as at 30 April 2026.

RESTRICTED RESERVES (CONGRESS)

30 Apr 25	Restricted Reserves according to Congress	€ 54,345,000
	Allocation 2025/2026	€ 1,569,000
30 Apr 26	Restricted Reserves according to Congress	€ 55,914,000

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED RESERVES (IOC)

30 Apr 25	Temporarily Restricted Reserves (IOC)	€ 6,160,000
	Release 2025/2026	- € 6,160,000
	Balance after Release	€ 0
	Allocation 2025/2026	€ 2,500,000
30 Apr 26	Temporarily Restricted Reserves	€ 2,500,000

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

IT OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

The IT security project - including cloud-based solutions and enhanced authorisation protocols - and the CRM implementation remained key long-term strategic initiatives supporting the IBU's digital transformation. The CRM, together with the portal for National Federations (Member Center) and Organising Committees (IBU Scope 2.1), further streamlined the management of funding projects and was expanded to support additional business processes. Integration with the Member Center and the IBU website progressed during the year, creating a more connected digital ecosystem, reducing administrative effort, minimising manual updates and improving data consistency across platforms.

Microsoft 365 applications, including SharePoint, Teams and OneDrive, continued to strengthen collaboration, communication and document management throughout the organisation. Their use was further optimised through refined usage concepts and the integration of additional functionalities. A dedicated Stakeholder SharePoint platform was established to improve communication and information sharing with Technical Delegates, Technical Committee members, Organising Committees and Equipment Partners by providing centralised access to key documents, guidelines, links and other essential resources.

Cybersecurity remained a top organisational priority, with continuous enhancements to security measures and the further development of the IT emergency manual to strengthen the organisation's resilience. In addition, all company de-

vices were enrolled in Microsoft Intune, enabling centralised device management, enhanced compliance monitoring and a higher level of IT security.

Staff training focused on Microsoft 365 applications, particularly SharePoint and Teams, strengthening digital collaboration and the effective use of these tools across the organisation.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Following a comprehensive review of the IBU's banking structure, the banking landscape was consolidated from three banking partners to a single main banking partner. This simplified administrative processes, improved efficiency, reduced banking costs and streamlined day-to-day banking operations.

Data protection remains an important focus across the organisation. Annual mandatory data protection training was conducted to strengthen employees' awareness and ensure the secure handling of personal data. In addition, an independent external review of the IBU's data protection framework was completed during the reporting year. The resulting recommendations will be implemented to further strengthen data protection processes.

The authorisation rules, together with all other internal policies, are regularly reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect best practices and operational requirements. In addition, the association's insurance coverage is assessed annually and adjusted where appropriate to ensure that significant risks remain adequately covered while seeking opportunities to optimise coverage and costs.

IBU EVENT AND MARKETING GMBH

Following the establishment of the IBU GmbH in the previous reporting year as a wholly owned subsidiary of the IBU, the company successfully served as the operational entity for the Loop One Biathlon Opening Festival. Significant work was undertaken to establish the legal, contractual, tax, trademark and administrative framework required for its operations.

In parallel, IBU GmbH was fully integrated into the association's existing business processes, accounting, financial reporting and internal control framework. The implementation of these new structures and processes was successfully completed using existing internal resources.





BIATHLON INTEGRITY UNIT



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SAFE



ABOUT THE BIATHLON INTEGRITY UNIT

The Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU) safeguards biathlon’s integrity, ensuring the sport remains clean, fair, safe and trusted. It enforces the IBU Integrity Code and delivers education, investigation and anti-doping programmes, focusing on risks like doping, competition manipulation, misconduct, safeguarding, online abuse and governance weaknesses.

Over the past year, the BIU has strengthened its prevention-led, intelligence-informed approach, collaborating with anti-doping organisations, integrity partners and safeguarding bodies. Education is central, empowering athletes, coaches and officials with knowledge and tools to uphold integrity.

The Biathlon Governance Framework supports National Federations in meeting high standards of transparency and accountability.

The BIU operates independently within the IBU, partnering with WADA, law enforcement and other sport integrity organisations to enhance information sharing and coordinated responses. Internally, it combines a skilled operational team with independent oversight to address modern integrity challenges.

Its mission remains: protect biathlon’s integrity, support participants and ensure the sport is governed and experienced with trust.



GREG MCKENNA
HEAD OF BIU

GREG McKENNA
HEAD OF BIU

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TESTING COORDINATOR

CADRE INVESTIGATORS

KATHARINA GATTERER
EDUCATION AND
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

OPERATIONAL INSIGHT

VOICE ANALYSIS PILOT

The BIU has continued to explore responsible use of technology to support clean sport. Its Voice Analysis Screening Tool project, now known publicly as Project Safe Voice, uses Clearspeed's AI-enabled voice analytics to support point-in-time risk assessment through a short set of automated yes or no questions. Participation is voluntary, private and non-invasive.

The pilot phase showed encouraging potential, while also confirming the need for careful handling, athlete trust, strong ethical oversight and practical event logistics. The BIU has now moved into Phase Two of the project, with more than 100 international-level athletes screened to date. Used properly, this type of tool can help the BIU clear low-risk participants more quickly and focus its testing, intelligence and investigative resources where they are most needed.

WELLBEING AND SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT

The BIU has also continued to support the IBU's wider work on athlete wellbeing and safeguarding. Through the Mental Health Working Group, the BIU and IBU have been developing a more structured approach to mental health support across biathlon, with a focus on athletes, coaches and support teams and have produced several key documents and initiatives, including the Wellbeing Charter, the Mental Health Policy and the Mental Health Strategy.

This work recognises that wellbeing is closely linked to safe sport, performance and integrity. The planned IBU wellbeing support programme is designed to improve access to support, reduce stigma

and increase mental health literacy across the sport. It also reflects the BIU's wider safeguarding role by helping ensure that concerns affecting athlete welfare are recognised earlier and addressed more effectively.

The aim is to move beyond awareness alone and build a practical support model that can be understood and used by the biathlon community.

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED

The development and rollout of the Biathlon Governance Framework marked a major step forward in supporting stronger, more consistent governance across the biathlon community. The Framework has been created by the BIU in collaboration with the IBU and is designed to help National Federations meet clear standards linked to transparency, accountability, ethical conduct and safe sport.

The work began with engagement at the 2024 IBU Congress and continued through the creation of a geographically diverse Governance Consultation Working Group, including National Federation and athlete representation. The full Framework was then launched to National Federations in October 2025, with an initial assessment covering NF information, safeguarding, dispute resolution and financial transparency.

The BIU's Governance Coordinator role supports this work by helping National Federations understand the Framework, access resources and strengthen their governance arrangements in a practical and proportionate way.

INTELLIGENCE-LED TESTING: AHEAD OF MILANO CORTINA 2026

In the lead up to the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, the BIU delivered a comprehensive intelligence-led anti-doping testing programme covering both in-competition and out-of-competition testing. The programme was built around close coordination with the International Testing Agency (ITA) and National Anti-Doping Organisations, with testing responsibility reviewed through a multi-factor risk assessment covering competition level, performance trends, qualification pathways, seasonal progression and relevant intelligence indicators.

This approach helped ensure that athletes with the potential to qualify for the Winter Games, including emerging athletes and those on the margins of qualification, were appropriately covered. Between 1 May 2025 and 30 January 2026, the BIU collected 1,332 samples, with 80% collected out of competition and 20% in-competition. All athletes ranked in the top 30 of the overall World Cup standings were tested at least three times out-of-competition during that period. The programme also supported the Games-time testing strategy through cooperation with the ITA.

MAY 2025

NEW GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

A new governance working group has been established to provide expertise on the Biathlon Governance Framework - a set of requirements for NFs to help implement high standards of governance for biathlon, assisted by resources and support from the BIU. The whole group met on 15 May 2025, providing valuable feedback.

MAY 2025

SWISS COURT UPHOLDS USTYUGOV SANCTIONS

The International Biathlon Union and the Biathlon Integrity Unit welcomed the Swiss Federal Tribunal's decision to reject former Russian biathlete Evgeny Ustyugov's appeals. This final ruling upholds previous decisions by the IBU Anti-Doping Hearing Panel and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), confirming sanctions for anti-doping rule violations.

JUNE 2025

IBU AND BIU ATHLETE AMBASSADORS FOR THE 2025-2027

The International Biathlon Union and the Biathlon Integrity Unit presented nine Athlete Ambassadors for the 2025-2027 term. Hailing from seven countries, Athlete Ambassadors will actively contribute to strengthening trust and integrity in biathlon, while promoting a culture rooted in sustainability, equality and fairness. The BIU's Integrity Ambassadors are: Chloe Levins (USA), Lovro Planko (SLO) and Pascale Paradis (CAN).

JUNE 2025

UNINTENTIONAL DOPING

The World Anti-Doping Agency's Taskforce on Unintentional Doping invited contributions from athletes and support personnel for a study on unintentional doping. As part of the BIU's involvement, the BIU interviewed Professor Sue Backhouse, Chair of the Taskforce, to discuss the definition and consequences of unintentional doping.



JULY 2025

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 PUBLISHED

The BIU published its Annual Report (Documents & Rules – Annual Report – Biathlon Integrity Unit) for the period from May 2024 to April 2025, a year of deeper cooperation with integrity bodies, law enforcement agencies and National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs).

JULY 2025

SUMMER OF MENTAL HEALTH

This summer, the BIU is intensifying its focus on mental health through the launch of its new campaign: Summer of Mental Health. In collaboration with the IBU, this initiative builds upon the progress initiated by the establishment of the Mental Health Working Group in January, marking an ongoing commitment to this critical aspect of athlete performance.



AUGUST 2025

MAINTAINING MENTAL HEALTH

From international Alpine skier to coach and sports psychologist, Andrea Appierto has dedicated his career to supporting athletes both on and off the field. To mark the launch of the BIU's Summer of Mental Health campaign, he discussed his journey and the importance of mental health as a foundation for success in biathlon.

AUGUST 2025

JEFFERIES' MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

Jacques Jefferies, a biathlete and mental health advocate, surveyed 169 biathletes in 2023, finding 70% faced challenges and 95% lacked knowledge. He has since then promoted education and open dialogue in biathlon. In a BIU podcast, he shared insights on his campaign and how his role as an IBU Sustainability Ambassador ties into mental health in sport.

AUGUST 2025

MENTAL HEALTH: A PROFESSIONAL'S VIEW

Continuing the Summer of Mental Health theme, the BIU conducted a podcast interview with Dr Alan Currie, a UK-based clinical psychiatrist specialising in sport. Exploring mental health in sport, Dr Currie shared comparisons with the general population and discussed shared responsibility and the role of the IBU/BIU Mental Health Working Group in biathlon.

SEPTEMBER 2025

BIATHLON GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

A new Biathlon Governance Framework was launched to all National Federations in October 2025. Aligned with IBU's Target 2030, NFs were invited to complete an initial assessment of their current governance practices. Further details and submission instructions via IBU Scope were shared by email at the start of October 2025.



OCTOBER 2025

INTEGRITY AT THE CORE

At Play the Game 2025, BIU Board Member Alex Marshall and Governance Coordinator Julia Cook shared how biathlon rebuilt trust and strengthened governance. Their presentations - "Regaining Trust: Building an Independent Integrity Unit" and "Creating a Sports Governance Framework" - highlighted how integrity now stands at the heart of biathlon's evolution.

OCTOBER 2025

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION FOR SPORTS INTEGRITY

IBU President Olle Dahlin and the BIU's Head Greg McKenna were among 400 leaders gathered at the 5th International Forum for Sports Integrity in Lausanne. Organised by the IOC, the Forum adopted the Universal Declaration on Sports Integrity, a landmark commitment to safeguarding integrity in sport.

OCTOBER 2025 UNITING AGAINST SPORT CORRUPTION

The International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport - uniting sports bodies, governments and NGOs - held its 4th Steering Committee Meeting & Annual Conference in Lausanne. IBU President Olle Dahlin and Head of Strategy, Sustainability & Governance Rikka Rakic joined discussions on transparency, ethical governance and global collaboration against corruption in sport.

OCTOBER 2025 SECOND IN-PERSON MEETING FOR SAFE HARBOUR PROJECT

The BIU joined partners of the Safe Harbour project, which aims to empower the European sports community to effectively address safeguarding concerns, at its 2nd Project Meeting in Bucharest (21–22 October). The agenda included discussions on the development of a new Classification system of Safeguarding Concerns and the scope of the European Network for Safe Sports.

NOVEMBER 2025 WADA PROHIBITED LIST 2026

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) published the 2026 Prohibited List, outlining the substances and methods banned in sport. Organised into several categories, the List specifies which substances and methods are prohibited at all times, in competition only, or within specific sports.

NOVEMBER 2025 PROJECT SAFE VOICE

The Biathlon Integrity Unit entered Phase Two of its Voice Analytics Screening Tool project, using Clearspeed's AI-enabled technology to help protect clean athletes and ensure fair competition. The system analyses responses to short yes/no questions to provide rapid, impartial risk assessments and allow the BIU to focus efforts where needed.

DECEMBER 2025 IBU NOTIFIED OF CAS ARBITRATION REQUEST

The IBU was notified that the Russian Biathlon Union, the Russian Paralympic Committee and eight Russian biathletes and Para biathletes had filed a request for arbitration with CAS. The IBU stands by the Congress decision to suspend them, based on strong legal grounds and will fully cooperate with CAS while maintaining its position.

DECEMBER 2025 WORLD CONFERENCE ON DOPING IN KOREA

The WADA Annual Foundation Board meeting was held on 5 December, alongside the sixth World Conference on Doping in Sport, in Busan, South Korea. IBU President Olle Dahlin and Board Chair Louise Reilly joined over 1,500 representatives from sports bodies, governments, anti-doping organisations, athletes, labs, researchers and the media.



JANUARY 2026

FOCUS ON CONTAMINATION

Following WADA's establishment of a Working Group on Contaminations in March 2025, the BIU focused on raising awareness of the risks of contamination among athletes and their entourages. Pointing out that contamination leading to Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) – and potential sanctions for Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) – is becoming more common in sport, it highlighted the growing risk.

FEBRUARY 2026

ROBUST TESTING PROGRAMME AHEAD OF OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

In the lead up to the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, the Biathlon Integrity Unit continued its comprehensive anti-doping testing programme. The intelligence-led programme included both in-competition and out-of-competition testing and was designed to ensure a strong and credible testing framework ahead of the Winter Games.

FEBRUARY 2026

MONA BRORSSON DELEGATED TO WADA ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Former Olympic biathlete Mona Brorsson of Sweden was part of WADA's Athlete Engagement (AE) teams, stationed in the Olympic/Paralympic Villages in Milan and Cortina to deliver the "One Play True Team" campaign, which aims to raise awareness about doping-free sport.

FEBRUARY 2026

MIND ZONE

At Milano Cortina 2026, the BIU helped create the Athlete365 x Powerade Mind Zone - a welcoming space where athletes and support staff could step away from the intensity of the Games to relax, recharge and reconnect. Visitors could unwind through simple activities like drawing, mindfulness exercises and writing postcards, or explore practical mental health tools - all in a calm, supportive environment designed for a moment of pause.

MARCH 2026

BIU BLOG: I'M AT THE OLYMPICS!

In the BIU blog, BIU Integrity Ambassadors Pascale Paradis of Canada and Lovro Planko of Slovenia talked about their Olympic experience, including making wise use of Mind Zone, the calming influence of a familiar venue in Antholz, managing social media time and enjoying the Olympic Winter Games vibe, regardless of the results.

MARCH 2026

YOUTH JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (YJWCH)

The BIU was active at the YJWCH, providing a stand with quizzes on various integrity topics. The BIU also held a seminar on the basics of anti-doping, which was well attended, with more than 120 athletes participating.



Scan here for
the BIU's annual
report.

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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