



## IBU Development Project Guidelines 2026/2027

March 2026

### Objectives

1. Build the capacity of existing members to regulate better, promote and develop the sport at a national level and strengthen its performance at the international level.
2. Create the opportunity for more activities to take place in the member federation.
3. Promotion of gender equality, diversity, inclusion, sustainability and good governance.
4. Keep the athletes in biathlon after their sports career.
5. Closing the competition gap (Target 2030).

### Project targets

1. Youth and Junior athletes' development
2. Biathlon expert support
3. Support of training venues
4. NF Partnerships
5. Sustainable business development
6. Customised development project with contributions to all stakeholders
7. Para Biathlon development

## General principles: IBU Development projects support

1. NFs can apply:
  - I. up to **25,000 EUR** for individual projects under Youth and junior athletes' development, Biathlon expert support, support of training venue,
  - II. and an **additional 25,000 EUR** for Sustainable business development projects (Sustainability, Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion or Athletes' involvement after sports career)
  - III. and **25,000 EUR per partnership project** (max. 3 projects per NF allowed).
2. Individual projects are available to all NFs from the **A to E** development categories. Sustainable business development projects are available to all NFs from the **A to D** development categories. Partnership projects are available to all active NFs, but only the NFs from the **A and B** development categories can apply.
3. The maximum support per single sustainable business development project is **15,000 EUR** (you can apply for more than one up to **25,000 EUR**).
4. **A-category NFs** have to lead at least one partnership project to be allowed to apply for individual projects or sustainable business development projects.
5. According to the IBU Development categories 2026/2027, only NFs from A and B categories can apply for partnership projects partnering with federations from the B, C, D or E categories (partnership projects between A and B or B and B federations are also allowed). NFs may lead up to 3 partnership projects per season. In one partnership project, more than two NFs can be involved. Long-term partnerships are possible to apply. A simple application is required to confirm the partnership's continuity in this case.
6. The total development support must not exceed 20% of the NF's turnover from the previous year. *(Example: If your turnover is less than 50,000 EUR, you may apply for a maximum of 10,000 EUR development support (20% of 50,000 EUR))*
7. The IBU financial support shall not exceed 50% of the total project costs to ensure its own financial activities from the NF. Donated services (e.g. professional services free of charge, value-in-kind) or voluntary work may not exceed 50% of the NF contribution. If the applicant reduces the budget during the execution of the project, the IBU contribution will be reduced in accordance with the 50% rule. NF **Partnership** projects are excluded from the 50% rule; no NF contribution is required.
8. All applications have to be submitted online via [IBU Scope 2.0](#).

9. The following projects are not considered for any development support:
  - I. stadium constructions
  - II. stadium maintenance
  - III. renovation of targets
  - IV. material requests
  - V. car purchase
  - VI. Team equipment and any materials already provided through the Material distribution
10. The applications will be analysed by the Development Commission and communicated to the EB according to the following criteria:
  - I. Compatibility with the objectives and guidelines of the programme
  - II. Athletes/Coaches/Expert profiles
  - III. Feasibility of the activities
  - IV. Budget consistency
  - V. NF activity in previous projects

Following analysis and approval, the Development Department will confirm the project application in the IBU Scope, approve the IBU financial support, and inform the NF of the budget distribution. NF must e-sign the agreement as soon as the signing process starts.

11. Following the project's approval, the NF must ensure that the approved activities are completed, and comprehensive reporting is provided as indicated in each project. The report generally includes a statement on the goals achieved, an expert report where required, and a list of invoices or other documents confirming the costs incurred. The reports with financial statements should be sent no later than 30 days after the project's end, by 15th April 2027 at the latest. The IBU has the right to publish reports, pictures, and videos on its communication channels.
12. 50% of the financial support will be transferred after the project has been approved, and the other 50% will be transferred after the project's final report has been accepted.
13. Only the NFs which finalise the project by 15 April 2027 can apply for the next IBU Development projects support.
14. IBU reserves the right to announce/unannounced visits to check the project implementation or request copies of the invoices listed in the project financial report. In the event of misuse of support, the IBU might decide to suspend the respective NF from development support for a period of time. For more details, please read here: the [International Biathlon Union - Inside IBU Development projects support](#)



Call for applications:

01 April - 12 May 2026

Duration of projects:

01 June 2026 - 31 March 2027

Announcement of results:

1 June 2026

Deadline for report submission:

15 April 2027

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## PROJECTS DESCRIPTION

### 1. Youth and Junior athletes' development

#### 1.1. Identification and training of youth and junior athletes regarding increasing the number of athletes at the national and international level

The project offers the NFs financial assistance to identify and train talented athletes for youth and junior national, regional and international competitions. Activities that might be included in the project are short-term national identification projects and training camps.

You can refer to the list of potential projects below:

- 1) Youth and Junior athletes camp(s)
- 2) Talent Identification Events
- 3) Others proposed by the NF

#### 1.2. Popularisation of biathlon among kids

The project offers the NFs financial assistance to identify and train talented athletes for national, regional and international youth competitions. Activities that might be included in the project include biathlon events to popularise the sport and recruit kids.

You can refer to the list of potential projects below:

- 1) (Series) of public events to recruit kids to biathlon
- 2) Laser/Optical/Air-rifle activities in schools as a part of the Biathlon 4 All project
- 3) Recruitment training camps for kids
- 4) Others proposed by the NF

The following applies to both projects (1.1. and 1.2.):

Co-financing may cover the following costs:

- 1) Transport for participants
- 2) Accommodations
- 3) Insurance of project participants, coaches
- 4) National coach-coordinator fee
- 5) Transportation of sports equipment
- 6) Project promotion costs
- 7) Other approved by IBU



The following expenses will not be taken into consideration within the scope of this project:

- 1) Costs relating to the participation of athletes in national and international events or any other IBU events

The application must be submitted through IBU Scope 2.0 and must include the following information:

- 1) Proposed action plan based on the expected objectives
- 2) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of the projects
- 3) Detailed budgetary proposal covering all expenses, accommodation costs, and fees agreed with the coach or coordinator of the project
- 4) Other parties included in the project, especially Olympic Solidarity (OS) funding, if applicable

The NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Technical report, including programme details, participant lists, coaches, volunteers, etc.
- 3) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other useful documents

## 2. Biathlon expert support

The project aims to either support countries in building or evaluating a biathlon development strategy related to the sports system by putting in place a medium–or long-term plan consisting of consultations with an expert assigned by the IBU or support countries in closing the gap to leading federations with an expert proposed by the NF or assigned by the IBU.

The project is dedicated to all NFs who want to develop biathlon in their country or close the gap to leading federations using expert consultation.

You can refer to the list of potential projects below (available to B-E NF categories):

- 1) Encourage grassroots development or further develop existing initiatives
- 2) Establish/improve the national competition system
- 3) Set up or strengthen youth and junior training programmes
- 4) Create a national talent identification system
- 5) Get an education about the principles and rules of biathlon
- 6) Build a biathlon venue in the country  
and
- 7) Close the gap between leading and developing federations (available to selected NFs only) by analysing the existing structure, identifying chances and barriers, and developing the long-term strategy under IBU supervision and expert support.

This programme (pp. 1-6) involves consulting with an appointed expert who can put together a realistic, medium– or long-term strategy or training plan with attainable objectives within the national setting. Depending on the needs, the appointed expert can divide her/his mission into short-term visits of 2 or 3 weeks rather than a single long-term period.

Co-financing may cover the following costs:

- 1) Organisational costs
- 2) Expert's transport costs
- 3) All the costs linked to the presence of the expert in the country (accommodation, food, domestic transport)
- 4) Expert's fee
- 5) Health and accident insurance
- 6) Other approved by IBU

The application must be submitted through IBU Scope and must include the following information:

- 1) Explanation of the activities and actions of the expert and the field of support
- 2) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of the projects
- 3) CV of the expert (only if the NF proposes the expert)
- 4) Detailed budgetary proposal covering all expenses, including travel and accommodation costs, as well as fees agreed with the expert



The experts may be proposed by the NF or appointed by the IBU.

While the action plan is being implemented, the NF must maintain constant and close contact with the expert. The expert should immediately inform IBU in writing of any problems that may occur to allow for a quick reaction if necessary.

The NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Technical report that confirms experts' visits and support areas, as well as the outcomes and the next steps agreed upon.
- 3) Technical information by the expert
- 4) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other useful documents

### 3. Support of the training venue

The project offers the NFs financial assistance to equip the facility with biathlon training targets and laser/optical or air rifles to train youngsters and develop biathlon at the national level.

You can refer to the list of projects below:

- 1) Buying the biathlon targets
- 2) Provision of laser/optical or air rifles for training youngsters
- 3) Purchase of a movable event set-up
- 4) Training venue equipment, mats, dry shooting equipment.

Co-financing may cover the following costs:

- 1) Biathlon targets (a maximum of 10 targets)
- 2) Laser/optical or air rifles
- 3) Moveable shooting range

The application must be submitted through IBU Scope and include the following information:

- 1) Documentation that proves the existing training facility for the biathlon targets
- 2) Information about the users of the laser or air rifles
- 3) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of the projects
- 4) Detailed budgetary proposal
- 5) Other parties included in the project

The NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Administrative report, including the address of the equipment storage location and the responsible person for managing the equipment.
- 3) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other useful documents

## 4. NF Partnerships

The project's main objective is to facilitate knowledge and experience exchange among NFs and to support mutual efforts to keep our sport at a high level. Exchange and cooperation programs between nations include training for coaches and athletes, education and practical training for coaches/referees/officials, and training for administrative staff, as well as mentorship programmes.

According to the recent IBU development categories, A and B category NFs can apply for a maximum of 3 partnership projects partnering with federations from B, C, D and E categories. Partnership projects between A and B, or between B and B, categories are allowed. In one partnership project, more than two NFs can be engaged.

The NFs Partnership project is excluded from the 50% rule and doesn't require NF's financial contribution. The project may involve a 2-year partnership, with interim reporting and funds transfers for each year.

You can refer to the list of potential projects below:

- 1) Joint camps combined with athletes' diagnostic and educational programmes for coaches (seminars, presentations, meetings, etc.)
- 2) Joint Referee/Official Seminars
- 3) Joint Technicians Seminars
- 4) Best practice exchange system for administrative staff

Co-financing may cover the following costs:

- 1) Organisational costs
- 2) Travel and accommodation costs
- 3) Expert's fee during the seminars and workshops
- 4) Diagnostic test costs
- 5) Health and accident insurance
- 6) Other approved by IBU

The application must be submitted by A or B category NF via IBU Scope and must include the following information:

- 1) Plan of the exchange program
- 2) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of the projects
- 3) Draft of the seminars and other educational activities agenda
- 4) Information about the diagnostic test
- 5) Detailed budgetary proposal covering all expenses, including travel and accommodation costs and fees agreed with the experts
- 6) Statement of the partnering NF(s) about their participation in the project

While the action plan is being implemented, the NF must maintain constant and close contact. The A or B-categories NFs will be responsible for the overall organisation and follow-up of the seminars, workshops, and camp, including, but not limited to, logistical arrangements, communication with participating NFs, and reporting to the IBU.

The A or B category NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Technical report including the information about the utilised programme, results, list of participants and others.
- 3) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other useful documents

## 5. Sustainable business development

### 5.1. Athletes' involvement after a sports career

The project aims to keep more biathletes in the biathlon family by co-financing (in cooperation with the NF) biathletes' remuneration, training, or education who want to remain in the national federation as coaches, technicians, staff, officials, etc.

The project offers NFs financial assistance to keep athletes within sports organisations in different roles and to ensure a smooth post-sporting transition. The project should last at least 6 months.

Co-financing may cover the following costs:

- 1) Athletes' education or training related to the sports organisation's work (sport management, coaches at all levels, mentoring, etc.).
- 2) Athlete's remuneration in a sport or administrative area in biathlon organisations (NF, sports clubs, schools, or similar).

Athletes must fulfil the following criteria to be considered for financial support:

- 1) Represents the NF at the international level (IBU WC or IBU Cup) in senior categories for a minimum of 2 seasons
- 2) The athlete must not have retired from the sport more than 5 seasons ago (flexibility for case-by-case decisions in case of good arguments, e.g. family obligations)
- 3) Athletes in their final competing season are also eligible (flexibility for case-by-case decisions in case of good arguments)
- 4) Only athletes who have not been convicted of a doping offence or sanctioned for actions contrary to standards of sporting ethics.

The application must be submitted through IBU Scope and must include the following information:

- 1) Dates and deadlines of the various phases of the projects and their specification, including content of education, job responsibilities and others.
- 2) CV and motivational letter of the athlete
- 3) Detailed budgetary proposal
- 4) Other parties included in the project

The NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Athlete's evaluation form
- 3) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other useful documents, e.g. certificates

**NOTE:** Applications with the same athlete max. 3 seasons; athletes who are already fully employed by the federation are not considered

## 5.2. Sustainability

The programme's main objective is to support NFs' efforts to make their activities more sustainable, reduce their carbon footprint as a federation, and raise awareness through projects and initiatives.

Projects can include creating an NF sustainability strategy (with expert support if needed), calculating the NF's carbon footprint, preparing a carbon management plan, or any projects that aim to raise general awareness of sustainable behaviour and climate advocacy.

Potential projects may include:

- 1) Creation of an NF Sustainability strategy and/or policy
- 2) Calculation of the NF's carbon footprint (baseline)
- 3) Preparation of a carbon management plan
- 4) Development of communication and educational programmes to grow awareness of sustainability and advocate for climate action nationally, including with stakeholders and fans
- 5) Improving biathlon venues to enhance lead collection
- 6) Hosting an Athlete Workshop in collaboration with POW (i.e. the IBU to cover all costs related to POW, NF only needs to bring the athletes and organise a room for the workshop)
- 7) Others proposed by the NF

Co-financing may cover the following costs:

- 1) Organisational and administrative costs
- 2) Expert's travel costs
- 3) Expert's fees
- 4) Preparation and production of materials (e.g. policy, calculation, or campaign materials)
- 5) Other as approved by IBU

The application must be submitted via IBU Scope and include the following information:

- 1) Proposed action plan based on the expected project objectives
- 2) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of the projects
- 3) Definition of external expertise required
- 4) Detailed budgetary proposal
- 5) Other parties included in the project

The NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Administrative report
- 3) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other support documents, e.g. brochure, invitation

**NOTE:** IBU will not financially support the purchase of carbon offset credits.

### 5.3. Gender Equality and Diversity

The project's main objective is to increase the number of girls in the biathlon family and ensure equal opportunities for everyone. In addition, projects can focus on increasing the number of women practising biathlon, activating women coaches in biathlon, creating an NF gender equality or DEI policy, and preventing harassment and abuse.

You can refer to the list of potential projects below:

- 1) Encourage gender equality and diversity activities or further develop existing initiatives
- 2) Organise gender equality or diversity seminars, webinars and workshops to encourage more access to working in biathlon
- 3) Establish programmes focusing on the prevention of harassment and abuse
- 4) Cover fee of female coaches or technicians
- 5) Support pregnant athletes in continuing their sports activities during pregnancy while ensuring their safety and well-being, or support postnatal exercise programs and psychological support to help athletes manage the transition to motherhood, offering childcare support during training and competition for up to two years after childbirth.
- 6) Co-financing may cover the following costs:
  - 1) Organisational costs
  - 2) Expert's (lecturer) travel costs
  - 3) Expert's or lecturer's fee
  - 4) Preparation and production of materials (e.g. brochure)
  - 5) Salary of female coaches or technicians
  - 6) Training process support for pregnant athletes and athletes who gave birth max. 2 years ago, including childcare during the training and competition periods;
  - 7) Other approved by IBU

The application must be submitted through IBU Scope and must include the following information:

- 1) Proposed action plan based on the expected objectives
- 2) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of the projects
- 3) Draft of seminars/workshops agenda
- 4) Detailed budgetary proposal
- 5) Other parties included in the project

The NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Administrative report
- 3) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other valuable documents, e.g. brochure, invitation

## 6. Customised development project with contributions to all stakeholders (available only to A-category NFs)

The goal of a customised sport development project, with contributions to all stakeholders, is to create sustainable, future-oriented projects that meet biathlon's specific needs and interests and align with the IBU Target 2030 strategy.

The budget will be discussed case-by-case.

The following criteria will be considered during the evaluation of the project:

1. Alignment with project mission and vision: Is it clear how your proposal will contribute to the project's success and the needs and goals of all stakeholders?
2. Feasibility: Is your proposal feasible? Have you developed a realistic and detailed plan for implementing your proposal, including timelines, budgets, and resource requirements?
3. Expertise: Do you have the experience and expertise to implement your proposal successfully?
4. Stakeholder engagement: Have you demonstrated how your proposal will address the needs and goals of all stakeholders, including athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, and sponsors?
5. Evaluation and monitoring: Have you developed a plan for monitoring and evaluating the success of your proposal, including metrics and evaluation criteria that reflect the needs and goals of all stakeholders?
6. Sustainability: Have you emphasised how your proposal is sustainable and environmentally friendly? Have you demonstrated how you will minimise waste, reduce your carbon footprint, and promote environmentally responsible practices?
7. Supporting documentation: Have you provided strong supporting documentation, such as letters of support from stakeholders or examples of similar projects you have worked on, to demonstrate your credibility and increase the likelihood of your proposal being accepted?

The application must be submitted via IBU Scope and include the following information:

- 1) Proposed action plan based on the expected project objectives
- 2) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of the projects
- 3) Definition of external expertise required
- 4) Detailed budgetary proposal
- 5) Other parties included in the project

## 7. Para Biathlon development

### 7.1. Identification and training of Para Biathlon athletes with regard to increasing the number of athletes at the national and international level

The project offers NFs financial assistance, up to €15'000 per NF per year, to identify and train talented para-biathletes for national, regional and international competitions. Activities that might be included in the project are short-term national identification projects and training camps.

You can refer to the list of potential projects below:

- 1) Athlete development camp(s)
- 2) Talent Identification Events
- 3) Others proposed by the NF and approved by IBU

### 7.2. Popularisation of Para Biathlon

The project offers the NFs financial assistance, up to €15'000 per NF per year, to identify and train talented athletes for national, regional and international competitions. Activities that might be included in the project include popularising the sport of Para Biathlon and recruiting new para biathletes.

You can refer to the list of potential projects below:

- 1) (Series) of public events to recruit new athletes to para biathlon
- 2) Laser/Optical/Air rifle activities in schools, fairs, festivals and other events as a part of a Biathlon 4 All project
- 3) Recruitment training camps for newcomers
- 4) Others proposed by the NF and approved by IBU

The following applies to both projects (7.1. and 7.2.):

Co-financing may cover the following costs:

- 1) Transport for participants
- 2) Accommodations
- 3) Insurance of project participants, coaches
- 4) National coach-coordinator fee
- 5) Transportation of sports equipment
- 6) Project promotion costs
- 7) Other approved by IBU

The following expenses will not be taken into consideration within the scope of this project:

- 1) Costs relating to the participation of athletes in national and international events or any other IBU events

The application must be submitted through IBU Scope 2.0 and must include the following information:

- 1) Proposed action plan based on the expected objectives
- 2) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of the projects
- 3) Detailed budgetary proposal covering all expenses, accommodation costs, and fees agreed with the coach or coordinator of the project
- 4) Other parties included in the project, especially IPC or similar funding sources, if applicable

The NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Technical report, including programme details, participant lists, coaches, volunteers, etc.
- 3) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other useful documents

### 7.3. NF Partnerships

The NF Para Biathlon Partnerships' main objective is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among NFs and to support the development of para biathlon to a higher level. Exchange and cooperation programs among up to three (3) nations include training for coaches and athletes, as well as education and practical training for coaches/referees/officials.

The NFs Partnership projects are excluded from the 50% co-financing rule; hence, they don't require NF's financial contribution.

The project may extend to a 2-year partnership with interim reporting and funds transfer for each year accordingly. Maximum support is €25'000 / year per partnership.

Please refer to the list of potential projects below:

- 1) Joint camps combined with athletes' diagnostic and educational programmes for coaches (seminars, presentations, meetings, etc.)
- 2) Joint Referee/Official Seminars
- 3) Joint Technicians Seminars

Project financing may cover the following costs:

- 1) Organisational costs
- 2) Travel and accommodation costs
- 3) Expert's fee during the seminars and workshops
- 4) Diagnostic test costs
- 5) Health and accident insurance
- 6) Other approved by IBU



The application must be submitted by the NF serving as project lead via IBU Scope and must include the following information:

- 1) Plan of the partnership program for the entire period in question
- 2) Dates and deadlines of the various phases/activities of key projects
- 3) Draft of the seminars and other educational activities agenda
- 4) Information about diagnostic tests, if applicable
- 5) Detailed budgetary proposal covering all expenses, including travel and accommodation costs and fees agreed with the experts
- 6) Statement of all partnering NF(s) about their participation in the project (Lead NF + max 2 other NFs)

While the action plan is being implemented, the NFs forming the partnership must maintain constant and close contact. The NF in the lead will be responsible for the overall organisation and follow-up, including, but not limited to, logistical arrangements, communication with participating NFs, and reporting to the IBU.

The lead NF must provide the following documents no later than 30 days after the end of the project via IBU Scope:

- 1) Financial report
- 2) Technical report including the information about the utilised programme, results according to the project objectives, a list of participants and others.
- 3) Photos, videos, website posts, social media posts and any other useful documents