



Edition 2026

IBU BIATHLON FOR ALL (B4A) EXCELLENCE AWARD

What is this?

An annual award for National Federations that recognises outstanding and impactful [Biathlon for All \(B4A\)](#) initiatives based on the completed actions (events or series of events), which aim at increasing accessibility, inclusion, and grassroots participation and recruitment in biathlon and para biathlon.

Why the Award?

The IBU Biathlon for All Excellence Award recognises and promotes National Federations that successfully implement initiatives which:

- Increase access to biathlon with a focus on kids, youth, and para biathlon
- Consider different and effective event formats for various settings (try-outs, challenges, masterclasses, competitions, school lessons, etc.)
- Engage with a large number of participants from diverse age groups (with a focus on kids and youth)
- Remove structural, financial, geographical, or social barriers to participation
- Strengthen grassroots participation pathways
- Promote inclusive club structures and development systems
- Contribute to the long-term sustainability of biathlon and para biathlon

The Award encourages National Federations to report on successful events or series of events, showcase inclusion in their strategic development planning, and share best practices.

Who should participate?

Applications are open to all Full National Federation Members. Each Full National Federation Member may submit one application per year, describing (1) an event or (2) a series of events. The initiative must have been implemented within the previous 24 months. An NF that wins the Biathlon for All Excellence Award may not submit another application in the following year.

What do winners receive?

The winner will be recognised at the IBU Congress 2026 (17-20 September 2026).

The winning NF will receive:

- An official IBU Biathlon for All Excellence Trophy
- Recognition across IBU communication platforms
- A financial prize of €10,000 to support further B4A initiatives

Award Rules

To be eligible, the event must:

- Be organised according to the B4A guidelines (incl. use of granted laser/optical rifles, branding, communication templates, etc)
- Contribute clearly to the objectives of the IBU Biathlon for All framework
- Demonstrate measurable and evidenced impact



The event (or series of events) may focus mainly on kids and youth participation, para-biathlon, disadvantaged communities, rural populations, inclusive club environments, or education of coaches and volunteers.

Application Process

The application period for this year's edition is from **1 April until 30 June 2026**. Applications must be submitted digitally via [IBU Scope](#) and include:

1. Event Description (objectives, target groups, timeline, stakeholders, budget)
2. Evidence of Impact (participation data, growth, retention, structural changes)
3. Sustainability Plan
4. Alignment with IBU B4A Objectives

Award Jury

The Award winner will be decided by a jury consisting of:

- Representatives of the IBU Development Department
- One representative of the IBU Development Commission
- One expert in sport development or inclusion (if appointed)

Award Criteria

Submitted initiatives will be evaluated based on three criteria, each carrying equal weight:

1. Strategic Implementation
2. Measurable Impact
3. Replicability

Criteria Descriptions

Criterion 1 – Strategic Implementation

How was the initiative planned and managed? Was it integrated into broader development planning?

Criterion 2 – Measurable Impact

Does the organisation provide clear data to evidence meaningful and sustainable change?

Criterion 3 – Replicability

Can other National Federations realistically implement this initiative?

Contact

For questions regarding the application process, or award criteria for the IBU Biathlon for All Excellence Award, please contact IBU Development Project Coordinator: maxim.berdnikov@ibu.at