

9.1. REPORT DEVELOPMENT

1. IBU Academy

a. COACH EDUCATION

Course Applications

- For the upcoming Basic Course (April 2025), 23 applications from 19 different NFs were submitted via IBU Scope.
- For the upcoming First Level Course (from May 2025), 32 applications from 22 different NFs were submitted via IBU Scope.
- For the Regional Basic Courses, which will be held in Summer/Autumn 2025, 3 regions applied via IBU Scope.
- The application deadline for the next Second Level Course (starting in September 2025) will be the 31st March 2025.

Upcoming: The participants for Basic and First Level Course will be selected, and the regions for the Regional Basic Course will be selected. Please find more information on the IBU Coach Education here: [LINK](#).

b. E-LEARNING PLATFORM: LEARNING SUITE

- Currently, a para biathlon module for the First Level Course is implemented.
- The implementation of a safety course was started and shall be finished by the summer of 2025.
- The registration for the platform was optimised with a new registration form.

c. WEBINARS/SEMINAR 2025

Webinar/Seminar Plans for 2025:

- **IBU Coach Webinar:** Preparation for the Olympics Milano/Cortina, 12 June 2025
- **IBU Coach Webinar:** Kids Recruitment & Training, 16 July 2025
- **IBU Athlete Webinar:** Topic TBD, 10 September 2025
- **IBU Technician Seminar:** 24-26 September 2025
- **IBU Coach Webinar:** Topic TBD, 2 October 2025

d. RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME

- Interim reports for the RGP 2024/25 were received from all 3 supported Universities (Mid Sweden University, Ostfold University College, Montana State University).
- The application deadline on IBU Scope for the cycle 2025/26 is 31st March 2025.

All details about the Research Grant Programme can be found here: [LINK](#)

e. IBU ACADEMY Communication

1. The new IBU Academy website was successfully launched in January 2025 – find the link to the website [here](#).
2. The new IBU Academy Newsletter was launched at the beginning of February 2025.

f. *Journal of Biathlon Coaching, issues no 3*

The 3rd edition of the Journal of Biathlon Coaching was launched in the beginning of February 2025. Find the current issue [here](#).

g. *DC4 Biathletes – Erasmus +*

The IBU is a partner in the DC4Biathletes project (400.000 EUR, IBU 72.000 EUR), an initiative under the Erasmus+ Sport program. The official kick-off meeting occurred on 14-15 January 2025 in Warsaw, Poland. This project aims to support young biathletes in managing their dual careers and balancing their athletic and academic commitments.

The primary objectives include:

- Developing a modern and intercultural approach to dual careers in biathlon.
- Raising awareness of the benefits and challenges of combining education and sports.
- Enhancing the skills of young biathletes to ensure long-term success in both domains.

IBU's Responsibilities: As a key partner, IBU oversees communication, branding, and outreach. Responsibilities include setting up the website, managing social media, organising workshops, and ensuring long-term project impact through sustainability planning.

Project Partners: The project is carried out by an international team, including:

- Institute of Sport Poland (Coordinator)
- International Biathlon Union
- FEPSAC
- University of Ljubljana
- Re:wise Hub

Key focus areas in the upcoming months include launching the website, setting up the social media accounts, and conducting surveys and interviews among youth and junior athletes.

2. *Development Programmes*

a. *Closing the Competition Gap 2024/2025*

IBU granted listed below short-term support based on the budget allocated for 2024/2025 (300K EUR) and applications provided by eligible NFs according to the following criteria:

- The project must align with the provided during the interview self-analysis.
- The project must focus on A team support to Milano Cortina 2026.
- The project requires good argumentation and explanation of the usage of the funds, including long-term approach/impact.
- Maximum support per project is 20.000 EUR, starting from December 2024.

No	NF	Season	Budget
1	NF-Germany (GER)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
2	NF-Kazakhstan (KAZ)	2024/25	€ 19,800.00
3	NF-United States (USA)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
4	NF-Bulgaria (BUL)	2024/25	€ 18,600.00
5	NF-Slovakia (SVK)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
6	NF-Lithuania (LTU)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
7	NF-Finland (FIN)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
8	NF-Belgium (BEL)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
9	NF-Estonia (EST)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
10	NF-Italy (ITA)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
11	NF-Slovenia (SLO)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
12	NF-Sweden (SWE)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
13	NF-Ukraine (UKR)	2024/25	€ 15,000.00
14	NF-Austria (AUT)	2024/25	€ 20,000.00
			€ 273,400.00

b. NF's Development Projects Support 2024/2025

Customised project of NF Norway is Liatoppen Festival. IBU received totally 8 applications for this project and IBU and NF Norway accepted them all. The approved National Federations are: Canada, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland and Switzerland.

c. REGIONAL EVENTS

REGIONAL WINTER EVENTS 2024/2025

Of 13 Regional Events planned from the 13th of December to the 2nd of February, 10 took place. The Central European Cup in NMNM, CZE, was postponed due to the lack of snow to 13-16 March 2025. The Regional Event in Le Col De Porte, FRA was cancelled because of lack of participating NFs. The Baltic Biathlon Cup in Ignalina, LTU was relocated to Otepää/EST, because of lack of snow. The Regional Event in Otepää will be held in March 2025.

NF	Event Name	Event venue	From	To
Finland (FIN)	IBU Regional Event - Baltic Biathlon Cup	Imatra	13.12.2024	15.12.2024
Slovenia (SLO)	IBU Regional Event - FESA Biathlon Alpen Cup	Pokljuka	20.12.2024	22.12.2024
Czech (CZE)	IBU Regional Event - Central European Regional Cup	Nove Mesto na Morave	27.12.2024	29.12.2024
Canada (CAN)	IBU Regional Event - Prince George	Prince George	03.01.2025	07.01.2025
Austria (AUT)	IBU Regional Event - FESA Alpen Cup Biathlon	Hochfilzen	08.01.2025	11.01.2025
Bulgaria (BUL)	IBU Regional Event - Balkan Cup 2024/25	Bansko	08.01.2025	11.01.2025
Estonia (EST)	IBU Regional Event - Baltic Biathlon Cup	Haanja	17.01.2025	19.01.2025
Sweden (SWE)	IBU Regional Event - Swe Cup Lima	Lima	17.01.2025	19.01.2025
Canada (CAN)	IBU Regional Event - Western Canadian Championships	Whistler	23.01.2025	26.01.2025
Slovakia (SVK)	IBU Regional Event - Central European Regional Cup	Osrblie	24.01.2025	26.01.2025
France (FRA)	IBU Regional Event- Biathlon National Tour	Le Col De Porte	31.01.2025	02.02.2025
Lithuania (LTU)	IBU Regional Event - Biathlon Baltic Cup	Ignalina	31.01.2025	02.02.2025
United States (USA)	IBU Regional Event - North American Continental Cup	Fort Kent	31.01.2025	02.02.2025

Maija Savolainen, the Project Coordinator, visited 2 events: Baltic Cup, Imatra/FIN 13-15.12.2024 and Balkan Cup, Bansko/BUL 8-11.1.2025 together with Sport Development Manager, Tomasz Bernat. Development Director Dagmara Gerasimuk visited Alpen Cup, Hochfilzen/AUT 8-11.1.2025. Detailed reports of the visits are available in the Development department. The outcomes from the visits will be used to develop the project.

The visitation plan to rest of the Regional Events:

1. Alpen Cup, Valldidentro/ITA 14-16.02.2024
2. Central European Cup, DusznikiZdrój/POL 28.02-02.03.2025
3. Canadian Biathlon Championships, Valcartier/CAN 08-13.03.2025
4. Central European Cup, Nove Mesto Na Morave/CZE 13-16.03.2025
5. National Tour FFS, Peisey Nancroix/FRA 14-16.03.2025

d. Biathlon for All (B4A)

IBU successfully launched B4A Homepage on the 8th of January 2025.

Link to website: [Biathlon 4 All](#)

The Development Department team was presenting Biathlon 4 All at the well-known Marcialonga Ski Classics in Italy, 24-25.01.2025. Over two days, we explored new ways to promote biathlon alongside cross-country skiing, engaging with a diverse audience and sparking interest in our sport more here [B4A and Marcialonga](#)

Next steps for Biathlon 4 All:

1. Finalise the concept of International Biathlon Day 2025
2. B4A-coordinators meeting online 9th of April 2025

e. Olympic Solidarity Support – Development of National Sports System 2025

We continue our successful collaboration with the Olympic Solidarity and have received opportunities to grant additional support for our NFs. The support is meant to be addressed to developing federations after the IF recommendation and based on the OS regulations and internal evaluation process.

NFs listed below are in the scope of the development support up to 35.000 USD each, after respective NOC approval:

1. Spanish Biathlon Federation (ESP)
2. Romanian Biathlon Federation (ROU)
3. Croatian Biathlon Federation (CRO)
4. Australian Biathlon Federation (AUS)
5. Canadian Biathlon Federation (CAN)

Additional funds opportunity: 175 K USD (TBC soon)

f. NF UKR support

Status on 13/02/2025

IBU continues to give NF UKR extra support to help with their preparation for the Olympics and junior training plans. IBU has supported NF UKR with 175.200 EUR, including grants of 93.573 EUR from the Olympic Solidarity (May and December 2024).

We are in dialogue with OS to get a long-term extra DNSS programme and additional funding for 2025/2026.

g. Development Commission

The Development Commission (DC) met online on 28th January and focused on the upcoming Development Project support period, the International Biathlon Day initiative. DC also discussed prioritising National Federation Partnerships projects, proposed changes to the project funding rules, and various development projects and initiatives for biathlon. Lastly, the meeting covered International Biathlon Day and strategies to promote and strengthen the recruitment of Biathlon.

NEXT:

1. Development Info Day, 26 March 2025
2. NFs Development Project Support application call 1st April 2025
3. Development Commission meeting, 27-28 May 2025 (Munich/GER)
4. Biathlon 4 All Project Coordinators meeting, 9th of April (online)