

Executive Board Meeting 155  
 2020-11-13 Salzburg/AUT and virtual

Attendance List

DAHLIN, Olle	IBU	President (in person)
HAMZA, Jiri	IBU	Vice President <sup>1</sup> (virtual, not at 7.4.1.1)
LEISTNER, Klaus	IBU	Treasurer (virtual)
BOYGARD, Tore	IBU	Executive Board Member (virtual)
CARRABRE, Jim	IBU	Executive Board Member (virtual)
COBB, Max	IBU	Executive Board Member (virtual)
EGAN, Clare	IBU	Executive Board Member (virtual)
LEHOTAN, Ivor	IBU	Executive Board Member (virtual)
STEINLE, Franz	IBU	Executive Board Member (in person)
CARLSSON, Niklas	IBU	Secretary General <sup>2</sup> (in person)
<u>Guests:</u>		
BITTERLING, Felix	IBU	Sports & Event Director (SD, in person)
EIDENHAMMER, Margit	IBU	Head of Finance and Administration (HFA, in person)
GERASIMUK, Dagmara	IBU	Development Director (DD, in person)
RAKIC, Riikka	IBU	Senior Project Manager (in person)
WINKLER, Christian	IBU	Communications Director (CD, virtual)

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<sup>1</sup> Further referred to as VP <sup>2</sup>Further referred to as SG

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1. [President's welcome](#)

The President welcomed the board to this important meeting with limited in-person attendance due to the continuing COVID-19 related travel and other restrictions including a lock-down in Austria.

2. [Approval of agenda items + pot. conflict of interest announcement](#)

The agenda was approved without amendments. VP Jiri Hamza indicated a conflict of interest with regard to the decision of proposal for host of the IBU Biathlon World Championships 2024.

3. [Confirmation of EB minutes 154/2020](#)

The EB 154 minutes were confirmed without amendments.

4. [Reports, General](#)

I. The President reported on the following meetings that had taken place since EB 154:

I. IOC/Winter IF meeting, 5 October 2020, virtual

The IOC President invited the winter international federation leadership for an internal and informal discussion on current issues and sport.

II. Bank meetings, 21-22 October 2020, Salzburg

The IBU president, Treasurer, SG and the HFA held external bank meetings discussing options for the IBU's business.

III. Regional Workshops, 2 November 2020, virtual

Congress preparation meetings were held with the six NF-regions.

IV. IF Forum, 5-6 November 2020, virtual

The traditional IF Forum week was conducted virtually this year.

V. AIOWF Annual Meeting, 5 November, virtual

The AIOWF meeting included attendance by the IOC's sport department and heard reports from the different IOC commissions, GAISF and WADA, among others. A key discussion concerned the international test events for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

Replacing Gian Franco Kasper of the FIS, Ivo Ferriani was elected the new President of the AIOWF and following a long-term established practice of a single IF managing the AIOWF administration, IBSF Secretary General Heike Groesswang will serve as the AIOWF Secretary General.

VI. IOC Sustainability and Legacy Commission, 5 Nov 2020, virtual

President Dahlin attended the IOC Sustainability and Legacy Commission meeting where e.g. the IOC's new sustainability and legacy long-term objectives were discussed. The IBU's feedback was included and presented for discussion.

VII. IF Forum Sustainability Session, 6 November, virtual

The IBU received an IOC / Dow Carbon Leaders Award for its efforts to fight climate change, which includes carbon offset credits for the amount of the IBU's remnant carbon footprint during the 2020 calendar year (1'100 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e). The IBU also participated in a panel discussion featuring the Award's winners.

VIII. Commercial Side of Biathlon Webinars, 9 November 2020, virtual  
A double webinar was held that saw 75 IBU family participants from 35 nations.

IX. GAISF General Assembly, 10 November 2020, virtual  
The IBU participated in the annual proceedings.

X. IOC / Winter IF Meeting, 12 November 2020, virtual  
The IOC convened the winter IFs to an online meeting with the Beijing 2022 organisers to take the final decision on the international test events during the 2020/2021 season. A press release was issued by the IOC on 13 November.

II. Other EB members

There were no reports from the EB members.

III. Secretary General

The SG referred to his written report, highlighting a letter received from the RBU on 11 November to address their outstanding unpaid debt to OCs from the 2019/2020 season where some amounts remain outstanding.

Following a lengthy discussion, the EB decided to extend the payment deadline for the RBU until 25 November. If the RBU has not paid their debts in full by 25 November 2020, the RBU's quota for officials at IBU events will be reduced. *(Note after the meeting: RBU paid all debts before the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, so no measures needed)*

The SG also noted the success of the webinars discussing the Commercial Side of Biathlon and the interest expressed by the NFs in continuing discussion and development in this area, which will likely lead to staging further similar educational seminars in this topic area in the future.

5. Reports, Overall and Strategy

I. Report: EB Yearly Cycle

To ensure that the Executive Board is able to work with a long-term perspective, the SG presented a suggested rolling annual calendar for the board's work, including the aim to provide early budgetary direction for the NFs to help their future financial planning. After discussion, the EB agreed that the proposal provides a good framework for decision-making and approved the frame for yearly meetings. The frame is included as Appendix 1

II. Report: Target 26 (N.Carlsson)

I. Discussion: Overall objectives/ strategy (N. Carlsson)

Following the initial workshop at EB 154 in Munich, a proposal for continuing the overall objectives/strategy development process with a detailed schedule for 2021 was presented. The EB agreed to proceed with the development of the overall strategic framework according to the proposed process, however noting the potential impact of COVID-19 on any activities planned in Q1/21.

II. Report: 3.1/5.2 Digital Ecosystem (C. Winkler).

The EB acknowledged the update presented by CD together with Digital Project Manager Jouni Oksanen on the development of the IBU digital ecosystem. The project is on track with a Request for Proposal (RFP) being issued by 16 November. The RFP process is expected to take slightly over two months.

III. Report: Criteria Follow-up RBU (F.Steinle)

EB Member Franz Steinle reported that due to COVID-19 related restrictions the planned follow-up meeting with the RBU cannot be held as planned in November 2020. Given the expected timeline of the CAS decision regarding RUSADA in December 2020, the next meeting has been delayed until early 2021.

IV. Report: Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU) (F.Steinle)

The EB took note of EB Member Steinle's report on the latest developments in the Biathlon Integrity Unit, with specific reference to current CAS cases and ERC reporting procedures.

V. Decision: Anti-Doping Rules update connected to the new WADA Code

The EB approved the revised IBU Anti-Doping Rules that will be in effect from 1 January 2021 in accordance with the new WADA code.

VI. Report: Membership questions (N.Carlsson)

The EB received an update regarding the potential memberships of Thailand, Afghanistan and Kuwait. So far complete documentation has not been received from any of these nations.

6. Finance and Administration

I. Budget follow-up/forecast 2020/2021 (M.Eidenhammer/N.Carlsson)

The EB acknowledged the updated budget forecast, Forecast 2 for the financial year 2020/2021 now reflecting more detailed estimates on the impact of COVID-19.

II. Report/Decision: Financial Investments and Bank Comparison (M. Eidenhammer)

The EB supported the proposal for the new financial investment instruction guidelines, including the change of IBU's partner banks going forward, and we will now engage one bank for our daily operations and two banks for our reserves, frames were also given for how the reserves will be handled.

7. Sport

- I. Update & further procedure: (F. Bitterling)
  - a. WC Calendar & Comp. Schedule - general
  - b. WC Calendar - Trimester 3, 2020/21

The season preparations at both World and IBU Cup are progressing well, despite the unusual and constantly changing circumstances.

Based on the joint decision of all winter IFs, the IOC and the IPC to adapt the international sports testing programme for Beijing 2022, replacing all international test events scheduled in Q1 2021 (as announced on 13 November 2020 by the IOC), the IBU World Cup in the People's Republic of China will not take place during the third trimester of season 2020/2021. A revised schedule for the third World Cup trimester is pending further information from governmental authorities of potential event hosts. Possible calendar set-ups were presented to the EB, which has tasked the IBU Event Task Force (ETF) to finalize the planning asap but latest before the season start in Kontiolahti on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2020.

- II. Acknowledgement of Updated Qualification System for OWG 2022 (F. Bitterling)

The EB acknowledged the principles of an updated qualification system designed to respond to the challenges posed by the global pandemic. The final document once approved by the IOC will be shared with the EB for acknowledgement, before transmitting it to all NFs as well. IBU's goal is that all NFs are informed before the season start in Kontiolahti, which would be also the first qualification event.

- III. Decision: Allocation of host venue for SB WCH 2022 (F. Bitterling)

The EB decided unanimously to allocate the SB WCH to Ruhpolding/ GER following the proposal of the Technical Committee. The precise event dates will be coordinated with the NF GER/OC Ruhpolding and communicated in the IBU Datacenter afterwards.

- IV. WCH Candidates 2024 & 2025

- I. Presentation

- I. 2024
  - a. Nove Mesto NM/CZE
- II. 2025
  - a. Minsk/BLR
  - b. Lenzerheide/SUI

The EB received excellent presentations from all candidates and conducted a detailed Question & Answer session with each.

- II. Reports of WCH Evaluation Commission

The EB reviewed the reports of the WCH Evaluation Commission and received a summary presentation from the SD on the Commission's findings.

- III. Proposal for the Congress
  - I. WCH 2024

The EB (Jiri Hamza not present for agenda point) unanimously decided to propose



to the IBU Congress the appointment of Nove Mesto/CZE as the host of the IBU Biathlon World Championships 2024.

The rationale of the Evaluation Commission for the decision was as follows:

- With the IBU WCH 2013 (followed by the hosting of many lower level IBU events in the years before) a biathlon fairy tale has started in Czech Republic that continues until today;
- Every biathlon fan knows the amazing atmosphere at the events in NMNM which is without any doubt extraordinary in winter sports;
- The venue will be once more upgraded and consequently will be one of the most impressive winter sports arenas in the world;
- NMNM stands for so much then only an experienced and very skilled OC team and a great venue, it is a synonym for real biathlon festivals.

## II. WCH 2025

Based on the recommendation of the Evaluation Commission, the EB unanimously decided to propose to the IBU Congress the appointment of Lenzerheide/SUI as the host of the IBU Biathlon World Championships 2025.

The rationale of the Evaluation Commission for the decision was as follows:

- Lenzerheide is well known with a long history in organising international snow sports events, such as in alpine and cross-country skiing;
- As a biathlon organiser, Lenzerheide is a relatively new member of the Biathlon Family, which has gone through a rapid and impressive development by organising multiple IBU Junior Cups, IBU Cups and finally the IBU YJWCH 2020 in the last few years;
- The current WCH application for 2025 is an extremely professional one with an impressive integration of all national stakeholders, such as the state government, the region, the touristic union, the hosting town, Swiss Ski and last but not least athletes. In addition, it is embedded prominently in the Swiss sports network;
- The application does not only include another improvement of the venue's infrastructure but also a big commitment to IBU's strategy Target 26, and it follows a sustainable "green" event approach while providing a top level snow management system;
- An already fixed legacy fund for the next generation of young biathletes that would be generated from the hosting of the WCH, rounds off this impressive application.

## V. Report: WG fluor (M.Cobb)

The EB acknowledged the report on the development of the fluor tracker which is progressing well. Field testing is expected to begin in January 2021.

## VI. U25 Award WC: Prize Money (F.Bitterling)

Following the decision for such award from EB 154, the EB decided to award the U25 Award winner in both genders a season prize money purse of €5'000 each.

## 8. Development

### I. Report: Update (D.Gerasimuk)

The EB acknowledged the report by DD on the recent activities of the development department. The President complimented the DD for the highly successful virtual IOC-IBU camps.

### II. Decision: IBU Regional Event financial support and calendar.

The EB decided to support the DD's proposal for the financial support of the new IBU Regional Event series. Special rules for setting the new event dates in case of a cancellation due to the impact of COVID-19 will apply and require a new application to the IBU.

## 9. Communication

### I. Report: Update "Communication" (C.Winkler)

The EB acknowledged the report by CD on the recent activities of the communication department, tailored to meet the challenges of the upcoming season with no fans and little media on site with additional virtual services. A fan campaign called #BiathlonUnited will launch with the start of the new season along with a new IBU TikTok account.

## 10. Meetings

### I. EB meetings

- I. EB 156, Feb 11, Pokljuka/SLO
- II. EB 157, June 18-20, Salzburg/AUT
- III. EB 158, Sept 10, Munich/GER (in conjunction with the Presidents' Meeting on Sept 10-12 (beginning with dinner on 10 Sept))
- IV. EB 159, Nov 12-14, venue to be decided
- V. EB 160, February 2022, Beijing/CHN

### II. Other IBU meetings

- I. IBU Congress, 14 Nov 2020, virtual
  - a. Procedures and ExecutionCongress will take place virtually for the first time, managed by the President and SG. The ERC report will present a high-level summary of its final report. The SG reviewed the procedures for approval to be used during Congress 2020.
- II. OC meeting, 11-13 June 2021, Bled
- III. TC Meeting, (dates to be confirmed) January 2021, virtual

### III. Other meetings

- I. EU High Level Conference, 17 November, virtual
- II. EOC General Assembly, 27 November, virtual

## 11. Miscellaneous



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The EB agreed to discuss the set-up of a potential additional emergency fund to help NFs to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A working group was set up to consider the concept and applicable qualification criteria / distribution formula, consisting of the President, the VP, the SG and EB member Steinle.