

Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

27./28. May 2026 in Munich, Germany

Wednesday, 27 May 2026, 10:00 - 18:00 CET

Attending		Online
Christian Borch DEN Thomas Braun GER Lilya Budzulyak UKR Aliona Sosunova LTU Rikard Grip SWE Carlos Lannes ESP	Olle Dahlin - President Dagmara Gerasimuk - DD Gerold Sattlecker - HoA Maija Savolainen - DPC Maxim Berdnikov - DPC	John Farra USA

Thursday, 28 May 2026, 08:00 - 14:00 CET

Attending		Online
Christian Borch DEN Thomas Braun GER Lilya Budzulyak UKR Aliona Sosunova LTU Rikard Grip SWE Carlos Lannes ESP	Dagmara Gerasimuk -DD Gerold Sattlecker - HoA Maija Savolainen - DPC	John Farra USA

Agenda

1. Development Support 2025/2026 report (including CCG, IBU Academy, Regional Event, Camps)
2. Biathlon 4 All and International Biathlon Day - report
3. NFs development progress evaluation criteria - discussion
4. Discussion about the efficiency of the IBU support system
5. Joint meeting with the Para Working Group
 - a. Electronic Rifle Project - Next Steps
 - b. IBU Development support project - alignment (material support, B4A etc.)
 - c. Development categories
6. Joint session with the Technical Committee
 - a. Regional Events next steps
 - b. Youth Festival concept
7. Evaluation of the NFs applications for the project support 2026/2027
8. Target 2030 – update
9. Joint session with the Sustainability Commission

Minutes	
1	Development Support 2025/2026 report The meeting focused on evaluating the IBU's development support system and measuring its efficiency across multiple programs. Dagmara Gerasimuk provided an overview of the development support system, noting that €1.75 million was allocated to National Federation development projects in the previous year, with the majority going to National Federation Partnership Projects and Youth/Junior Athlete Development. Gerold Sattlecker presented updates on the IBU Academy, highlighting that over 300 coaches had graduated from 17 courses conducted over four years, including regional basic courses in Kazakhstan, Japan, China, and Korea. Maija Savolainen reported that Regional Events set new records, with 38 national federations participating and over 5,200 participants in total, while Maxim Berdnikov shared that 48 national federations had joined the Biathlon for All project, distributing 707 laser rifles with a total budget of nearly €2 million. The discussion revealed concerns about national federations' strategic approach to utilising IBU's development offerings, recognising that while the Development/IBU Academy moves quickly on new initiatives, implementation speed varies significantly among national federations. The conversation ended with an analysis of national federation categories and participation levels, showing that 79% of national federations were represented in IBU events, with 8 nations achieving Olympic podium results and 14 nations finishing in the top 10 overall.
2	The efficiency of the IBU support system (main topics) • Dagmara Gerasimuk presented the current setup of development categories 2026/2027 • Discussion about the CCG-project, more tailored projects, but for more short-term support • More youth are needed to build the future. Long-term focus, e.g., Regional Events, is an important first step. • Target 2030 is to double the number of youth/junior athletes • Popularisation of the sport is needed, and support for the youth category. Stop the drop-out of the sport. • NFs are not able to run the camps without IBU support. (Partnerships don't happen without support) • Keeping the current system of Dev. Projects for youth development. Concentrating on the CCG-project to close the gap. • Focus: Leadership support. Long-term strategy from every federation identifies the gaps. NF Dev. projects with clear goals to access for better support

	Summary: The discussion focused on development strategies for biathlon, with participants discussing how to support national federations and improve participation in IBU events. DG emphasised the importance of targeted support for specific needs rather than general assistance, while TB suggested focusing on improving leadership and structure in federations that currently don't participate in IBU events. The group set specific development goals for 2026-2030 to monitor: • Keep 80% of NFs represented in IBU international events • Increase from 32 to 40 NFs (from 50 -75%) with athletes in every IBU international event • Keep 40 NFs with both genders present at JWCHs • Set the goal for B cat. NFs to result in the athlete being in the top 15 at JWCHs • Set the goal for C cat. NFs to result in the athlete being in the top 30 at JWCHs • Consider the goal from A, B, and C cat NFs to increase the number of athletes by about % each year – different goals per category • Request from every NFs long term strategy with a 4-year action plan • Analyse the top 15 Junior Champs based on development category
3	Joint meeting with Development Commission and Para Biathlon Working Group (main topics) • Integration of para biathlon into Regional Events was discussed • Dagmara Gerasimuk introduced the basic principles of Regional Events • Concern was raised that OCs might be hesitant. Challenges with sit-skier courses. • The general requirements for OCs need to be defined. Awareness must be raised. • In events, there should be a minimum of one member of the jury who knows the rules of para biathlon. • There was a discussion on different options: integrating a few athletes into Olympic biathlon competitions or having separate para biathlon events in the long term for only para. Monitor and evaluate the impact of new integration policies and support measures for para biathlon at regional events, and report findings to inform further improvement. • It was decided to suggest to TC opening the possibilities to add a para biathlon category to the existing Regional events. • Electronic rifle project • Jayne Kavanagh presented the current status of the project.

	Summary: The meeting focused on integrating Para biathlon into regional events and setting development goals. Participants discussed how to make it easier for organisers to include Para athletes in competitions, with suggestions including creating educational materials, offering financial incentives, and providing experienced coaches to support first-time integrations. The group agreed that regional event guidelines should require efforts to integrate Para athletes, and they shared successful examples from Canada and Spain where Para athletes were integrated into regular biathlon competitions. The discussion also covered development goals for B- and C-category nations, with participants analysing current statistics showing a stable 30% representation from B and C categories in top rankings, and debating whether to focus support on active nations or those with potential for growth.
4	Joint session with the Development Commission and the Technical Committee (main topics) Regional Events next steps • Maija Savolainen introduced the report from season 2025/2026 and the current status of Regional Events • The importance of offering high-quality events for young athletes was emphasised. • Regional events are successful in attracting athletes. • Qualification Events (QEs) require clear criteria and oversight. • It was noted that all recognised qualification events must comply with IBU rules. • Recognition of qualification events should be confirmed before the start of the season. • Questions were whether the OC can define which athletes or nations are approved to compete. • Summer events as qualification events were considered, but only starting in summer 2027. • It was suggested that the S&E, together with the Technical Committee, create additional guidance or proposals regarding summer qualification events. • Possible challenges identified with Regional Events as QE: -Insufficient number of events. -Excessive participant numbers at some events. -Youth athletes competing in junior categories. -Athletes may need to wait for the next qualification event if planning is insufficient. • Regional Events are not necessarily Qualification Events. • Qualification events may potentially be accepted until the end of August 2026 Youth Festival concept • Following the discontinuation of the Youth World Championships, the Sport & Event and Development Departments developed the concept of the IBU Youth Festival as a new international youth event, which was presented to both groups. • The event should be inspirational and not overly focused on training.

	- Facilities should support: -Social interaction, -Training activities, -Overall athlete experience. The Development Commission extensively debated the feasibility and structure of a new youth festival to be held after the World Cup season, with concerns raised about venue availability, accommodation costs, and potential conflicts with national championships. Participants discussed whether the festival should focus on professional training or serve as an inspirational event for young athletes, with suggestions to include both top athletes and coaches as role models. Challenges around facility management and organising multiple training groups were acknowledged, with suggestions to potentially hold the event every two years to reduce organisational burden. The group also discussed potential scheduling conflicts with national championships and considered holding the event in March before or after the World Cup season ends.
5	NFs Development Projects 2026/2027 (main topics) - Consideration that only high-quality projects should receive financial support. - At the same time, support systems should encourage federations to develop long-term strategies. Under “Biathlon Expert Support,” conditions should be clarified to include the federation strategy and experts. - Proposal to rename the category to: “Expert Support” - Including strategic, commercial, coaching, and other forms of support Summary: The NFs development project support program was presented, noting that IBU received 162 applications with a budget of 1.9 million, but faces a gap of approximately 1 million due to the higher number of applications. The discussion on prioritisation from a development perspective was held. Suggestions for consistent support can help national governing bodies execute strategies, but it is recommended to review such projects every four years to ensure they remain beneficial. The questions about the sustainability of partnership projects were raised, particularly regarding how long external support should be provided before national federations develop their own capabilities, and suggested a gradual reduction in support while emphasising the importance of long-term, systematic approaches. Prioritising youth and junior development programs over senior team exchanges, suggesting that joint training camps between nations, particularly at the youth and junior levels, provide valuable cultural and training benefits. The group agreed to prioritise partnerships and youth/junior development projects, with a focus on declining support for expert services and capacity building over time. They also discussed the importance of supporting

	female coaches and maintaining clear budget allocation rules, including the implementation of a declining-funding model for external support services. The group discussed potential changes to the project application and funding cycle, proposing to move the application deadline from July to November to allow for better long-term planning and earlier budget decisions. It was suggested to implement a new cycle where applications would be reviewed in late March, with project durations running from May to April of the following year. The group agreed to consider this proposal and develop a formal timeline for review, while also discussing the need for clearer reporting deadlines and consequences for missed deadlines.
6	Biathlon 4 All • A greater need was identified for support related to activities and operations. • Other NFs still require both equipment and activity support. • The development commission suggested keeping the support for the project. Summary: The meeting focused on discussing equipment distribution and support for biathlon development programs. It was emphasised that while initial equipment distribution was important, the current focus should shift toward programming and best-practice sharing, particularly for nations that haven't yet fully engaged with the program. The challenges of maintaining equipment in fixed locations versus transporting it between regions were discussed, with suggestions to allow federations to choose between equipment and activity support funding. The group also addressed concerns about supporting youth and junior competitions, noting that budget cuts would affect support systems, particularly in less developed countries and at regional events.