

9.1. REPORT DEVELOPMENT

1. Development Programmes - *NF's Development Projects Support 2025/2026*

Project coordinator: Maija Savolainen

For season 2025/2026, 119 projects from 43 NFs have been approved. The total support budget is 1.698.538,00 €. New supported National Federations are CHI, GRL*, ISL*, and THA. One project application was withdrawn after the approval, NF POL with 10.000,00 €.

The application call with a short deadline will be open in September 2025, within the remaining budget, to support NFs that haven't applied or those that are still eligible to apply.

Additionally, the internal audit process for the 2024/2025 period has been completed. IBU has requested copies of the invoices from five (5) Development Projects:

NF BRA – Identification and training of youth and junior athletes

NF ITA - Identification and training of youth and junior athletes

NF JPN – Athlete's involvement after a sport career

NF NMKD – Gender equality and diversity

NF SLO – NF Partnership

All invoices were checked and are in line with the financial report of the projects.

2. REGIONAL EVENTS

Project coordinator: Maija Savolainen

15 applications for Regional Summer Events 2025 were accepted, with a total budget of € 98,644.00. The second event in Australia was cancelled due to a lack of participants. All other events until the 3rd of September have been carried out according to plans.

The support of € 40,000.00 was accepted for City Events in Norway and Germany. Both events have been carried out successfully.

The application period for Regional Winter Events 2025/2026 is open in IBU Scope, and the deadline for applications is the 15th of September 2025. Applications will be reviewed by the task force together with the S/E department.

3. CLOSING THE COMPETITION GAP

Project coordinator: Maija Savolainen

18 NFs received the targeted support in total 783,950.00 EUR for the following projects:

- Olympic preparation processes for 2026 and 2030 (NF's projects).

- Long-term strategy planning for 2030 and 2034 with expert support.
- Basic marketing programme development in cooperation with IBU experts.

One project application was withdrawn after approval, with an NF POL of 9,000.00 €.

In addition, DD started interviewing NFs from the B/C development category, including NF JPN, NF CHN and NF KOR.

4. IBU-IOC Development Camps

Project coordinator: Ilario Maddalin

- The Summer Camp (in partnership with Para Biathlon) - 29th June to 5th July – Lillehammer – NOR was organised in collaboration with Lillehammer Olympic Legacy Sport Centre and the Norwegian Biathlon Federation. The Camp was led by Knut Kuvas Brevik (Camp Head Coach) with the support of Anders Øverby(NOR), Håvard Bogetveit(NOR), Kristina Skjevdal(NOR) and Andrine Overland(NOR). 45 Athletes and 13 coaches from 13NF took part. [Here](#) you can find the report.
- Youth International Camp 27th September to 4th October – Arber - GER. The camp is led by Matthias Ahrens (GER) (Camp Head Coach). The IBU Youth International Camp application ended on April 30, 2025, with 104 Athletes and 27 coaches from 27 nations.
- Winter Camp - 1st to 7th December – GOMS – SUI. The winter camp application will close on August 31, 2025.

5. Partnership with the International School Sport Federation (ISF)

Project coordinator: Dagmara Gerasimuk

As a part of the Biathlon 4 All project, the MoU with ISF is going to be signed in October 2025.

1. Facilitate effective collaboration between ISF and IBU for the promotion of school Biathlon activities, mutually benefiting both Parties;
2. Strive to establish Biathlon as a recognised sport among National School Sport Federations (NSSF);
3. Specify that IBU is responsible for the technical sport organisation of the ISF Biathlon competitions during the ISF Events;
4. Strengthen overall cooperation and partnership between the two organisations and their members;
5. Promote sport and Biathlon in education at both local and international levels, attracting school-age Biathlon enthusiasts and fostering cooperation between IBU and ISF with local authorities. This also includes enhancing IBU's visibility in mass media.
6. Share information and updates using the organisation's platforms for mutual external

communication and promotion.

6. Personnel Updates in the Department

Christoph Gressenbauer, Academy Education Manager, has been offered a full-time position as a sports scientist at the Olympiazentrum Salzburg, where he will transition to a 30-hour position on 1st October 2025. We agreed that he will continue to support the IBU Academy with 10 hours per week, starting on 1st October 2025 and continuing until the end of December 2025. The concrete tasks and procedures will be defined together in the coming weeks. In mid-December, both parties will have the opportunity to decide whether to maintain this arrangement (10-hour employment) or not. We are discussing the department structure and roles, responsibilities, and the next steps.

9.1.1. Report - IBU Academy

1. COACH EDUCATION

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker/Anna Kitzbichler

Courses

- From 7-11 July 2025, the **Pilot Third Level Course 2024/25** was finished successfully. 10 participants from 9 different NFs received their certificate.
- From 22-27 July 2025, the **Regional Basic Course 2025** was held in Sapporo, **Japan**. The course brought together 17 coaches from Japan, Korea, and China.
- From 25-29 August 2025, the **Regional Basic Course 2025** was organized in Delnice, **Croatia**, with 10 coaches from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina taking part.
- From 1-6 September, the third **Regional Basic Course 2025** was held in Jakuszyce, **Poland**. 21 coaches from Poland, Slovakia, and Lithuania were taking part in the course.

Upcoming: For the upcoming month, the following coach education courses are planned:

- The first week of the **Second Level Course 2025/26** in Oberhof (14-19 September),
- The second week of the **First Level Course 2025/26** in Pokljuka (22-28 October),

Please find more information on the IBU Coach Education [here](#).

2. E-LEARNING PLATFORM: LEARNING SUITE

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker/Sophie Mayr/Anna Kitzbichler

- **IBU Referee Exam tool is now online**, supported by a pool of 170+ exam questions. The first exam took place in August 2025.
- **A rifle safety course** was developed and launched in July 2025 with a testing phase at the IBU-IOC Camp.
- The automation of certificate issuance and the integration of data export from LearningSuite (to the CRM) are currently being discussed with the developer.
- A revision of management rights is planned to allow for more differentiated role assignments within the platform.
- An internal IBU Scope Training program is currently in development.

3. WEBINARS/SEMINARS 2025

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker

- On 16 July 2025, a **Coach Webinar on “Kids Training – Key Principles for Success”** was held. Leading experts and high-level coaches shared their knowledge and best practice examples from their countries, with over 300 registrants and up to 160 live online participants.

Upcoming:

- On 10 September 2025, the Athletes Webinar: **“Media & The Athlete”** will take place, with insights from IBU, IOC, journalists, and a former athlete.
- On 24 and 25 September 2025, the **Technician Seminar “Fluor and Common waxing protocol updates”** will take place in Salzburg (Sport Center Rif). 37 participants from 22 National Federations worldwide have registered so far.
- 2 October 2025: another **Coach Webinar** is being planned on Communication and Leadership in Coaching.

4. JOURNAL OF BIATHLON COACHING

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker

The 4th edition of the Journal of Biathlon Coaching (JoBC) was published in September 2025. It continues to strengthen its role as a platform for international coaching and research exchange. Featured topics include:

- Training: “Training Progression from Junior to Senior Levels in Biathlon”
- Interview: Sverre Røiseland speaks about the Olympics in Milano Cortina 2026
- Mental Health: “Mental Health and Mental Toughness in Biathlon: Practical Implications from the Coaches’ Viewpoint”
- Shooting: “Optimizing Rifle Carry Configuration”
- Preparation: “Coaching the Mind: Practical Guidelines for Using Soft Skills to Prepare Athletes for Competitive Events”

Read the latest issue of the Journal of Biathlon Coaching [here](#).

5. RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME

Project coordinator: Christoph Gressenbauer

- The final reports from the **RGP cycle 2024/25** have been received from all 3 supported Universities (Mid Sweden, Montana, and Ostfold University) and await the final presentations in October 2025.

- For the **RGP cycle 2025/26**, four projects were approved: University of Savoie, Academy of Physical Education in Katowice, Salzburg Research, and Finnish Institute of High Performance KIHU. The interim reports are due on 15 December 2025.

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

6. DC4Biathletes – Erasmus+ Sport

Project coordinator: Anna Kitzbichler

During the IBU-IOC Camp in Lillehammer (NOR), a team of researchers from the DC4Biathletes project group conducted interviews with coaches and held a focus group with athletes. The aim was to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by young biathletes who balance sport and education. The results will contribute to the development of a dedicated platform that provides the tools needed to help athletes balance their dual careers more effectively.

Next steps: The second project meeting will take place in Ljubljana (SLO) from 10-11 November. The focus will be to discuss the research findings and agree on the next steps.

Stay up to date on the project via our website, dc4biathletes.com, or on Social Media (Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook).

7. IBU Mentorship Programme

Project coordinator: Dagmara Gerasimuk

The IBU Mentorship Programme: 'Shaping Tomorrow's Biathlon Leaders', has officially kicked off with an in-person meeting from 2-3 July in Anif. The programme runs in collaboration with the SheSkillz Global company.

The programme continues to grow in strength and diversity, bringing together 17 participants—8 women and 9 men—from 13 different National Federations. The programme began with Leadership Skills training and set the stage for a journey of growth, collaboration, and inclusive leadership. Participants began exploring key topics such as the difference between leadership and management, mapping their personal strengths, and understanding team dynamics.

Each mentee is now working with two mentors—one from the biathlon world and one from the business sector—to challenge perspectives and support their development. In the coming months, task groups will address strategic topics relevant to the IBU, with final presentations scheduled for April 2026.

Webinars:

On 02 September 2025, **Prof. Suzanne de Janasz** led the first webinar "**Negotiations**" on becoming clearer, credible, and confident negotiators. Through an engaging discussion and practical examples, all participants explored the power of stepping out of their comfort zone and strengthened their negotiation skills.

Upcoming Webinars:

- The next webinar will take place on 06 November 2025 and will focus on the inspiring topic “Lead with confidence”, led by JTA.

MORE information can be found here: [Mentorship Programme 2025](#)

8. University Cooperations

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker/Dagmara Gerasimuk

On 19 August 2025, the IBU officially signed a partnership agreement with the Swiss Federal Institute of Sport in Magglingen (SFISM) by IBU President Olle Dahlin and SFISM Rector Urs Mäder. This cooperation marks the fourth university partnership for the IBU. The SFISM is internationally recognized for its strong winter sports background and leading role in the scientific community, making it a natural partner for the IBU’s academic and research ambitions.

Please find more information on the IBU Cooperations [here](#).

IBU Academy discussed the partnership with the IAT Leipzig and Nord University Meraker, which should be established by the end of the year.

9. IBU ACADEMY COMMUNICATION

Project coordinator: Christoph Gressenbauer

In September 2025, the IBU Academy released the third edition of its Newsletter, reaching 1.653 registered stakeholders.

Stay connected through the IBU Academy channels:

- Academy website: [IBU Academy](#)
- E-learning platform: [Learning Suite](#)
- Academy Newsletter: Subscribe [here](#)