



IBU
**REGIONAL
EVENTS**
BIATHLON

IBU REGIONAL EVENTS GUIDELINES **2026 | 2027**

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PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

IBU Regional Events (REs) are a key events for strengthening biathlon development within and across the IBU Regions, providing athletes, coaches and officials with structured opportunities for growth and cooperation. REs support long-term development objectives and foster collaboration among National Federations.

OBJECTIVES

1. Support NFs to implement good quality international competitions for young athletes.
2. Address gaps in participation pathways by supporting NFs to introduce programs based on international cooperation.
3. Create the possibility of wide participation in system sports competitions (popularisation).
4. Support NFs to use and keep or build local biathlon facilities and venues to promote biathlon nationally and regionally.
5. Increase the activity and efficiency of biathlon federations/associations and clubs to promote the sport of children and youth.
6. Gain access to additional resources and funding.

These events are organized according to the current regional structure and related criteria, Regional Events support principles, which can be downloaded on [International Biathlon Union - Inside IBU Regional Events](#)

Participation of a minimum of three NFs in one IBU Regional Event is required*. One NF should be represented with a minimum of 3 athletes.

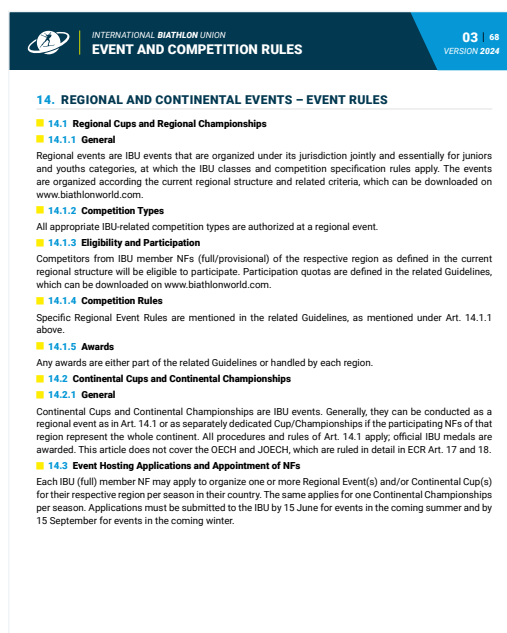
IBU will confirm the IBU Regional Events TDs upon the respective regions' proposal. Any TD needs to hold at least a valid IBU IR license. Exceptions require prior IBU approval.

** This rule does not apply to North America and Oceania IBU Region*

AN EXTRACT FROM IBU EVENT AND COMPETITION RULES

The IBU Event and Competition Rules (ECR) apply to all Regional Events! The ECR can be downloaded on [International Biathlon Union - Inside IBU Downloads](#)

The sections highlighted in red in this document indicate the rules where Regional Event Organizers may adjust the requirements from the IBU ECR and guidelines, after IBU approval.



1. CLASSES & COMPETITION SPECIFICATION CATEGORIES

The IBU competition season runs from 1 July to 30 June. Age classes for the entire IBU competition season are based on the competitor's age in the calendar year.

AGE GROUPS FOR CLASSES OF COMPETITORS

(according to IBU Rules - Art. 1.3 ff)

IBU AGE CLASSES				
Saison	Men/Women	U21	U19	U17
01.07.2026 - 30.06.2027	2005 + older	2006 - 2006	2008 - 2009	2010 - 2011
01.07.2027 - 30.06.2028	2006 + older	2007 - 2008	2009 - 2010	2011 - 2012
01.07.2028 - 30.06.2029	2007 + older	2008 - 2009	2010 - 2011	2012 - 2013
01.07.2029 - 30.06.2030	2008 + older	2009 - 2010	2011 - 2012	2013 - 2014

IBU competitions are held in the following age classes:

- Men/Women
- U21 Men / U21 Women (corresponds to Junior class)
- U19 Men / U19 Women (corresponds to Youth II)
- U17 Men / U17 Women (corresponds to Youth I)

The Regional Events competition program requires participation in a minimum of two age classes per gender, including youth and junior classes. Senior classes are not considered within those two classes. However, the competitions for seniors as well as younger age categories may be included in the event program.

For younger categories, the regional rules are possible to adopt and should be included in the application form. In special cases, the use of air and laser rifles is possible.

The types of competition formats are defined in IBU Event and Competition Rules and apply also to Regional Events.

2. IBU MEMBERCENTER

2.1 EVENT AND COMPETITION SCHEDULE

The Regional Events schedule will be published in the IBU Membercenter. The event schedule must be confirmed by the OC 1 month before the event.

2.2 ATHLETE REGISTRATION

Starting from season 2024/2025 basic athlete registration in IBU Membercenter for youth categories and older is mandatory (does not concern masters' classes).

Athlete registration must be done in IBU Membercenter latest 2 weeks before the event by the IBU National Federation. If the athlete is not registered, he/she cannot start in the competition.

Basic athlete registration guidelines can be downloaded: [International Biathlon Union - Inside IBU Regional Events](#)

2.3 RESULT MANAGEMENT

The timing and result management is the responsibility of OC. Transmission of the final results into IBU Membercenter must be done on the day that the competition ends.

Guidelines for result management in IBU Membercenter can be downloaded on website [International Biathlon Union - Inside IBU Regional Events](#)

3. GENERAL CRITERIA FOR IBU QUALIFYING EVENTS

In order to have IBU Regional Event or other national event recognized and eligible as event where IBU Qualifying Points (IBU QP) can be earned, the event should meet certain criteria.

There are two different options to calculate IBU QP:

- Calculation based on Variable Race Penalty
- Calculation based on Reference Time (fallback option)

A detailed explanation of the calculation model is available in the QP point calculation document of the respective season.

3.1 BASIC CRITERIA FOR EVENTS WITH VARIABLE RACE PENALTY

A. Age Classes

Event should follow age classes as described in ECR 1.3. However, in order to have IBU QP successfully calculated there should be at least:

- U19 Men and Women (may include U17)
- U21 Men and Women (may include Seniors)

B. Types of Competitions

Organizers are free to choose from all types of competitions as described in ECR 1.4. It is recommendable also to keep the competition specifications as similar as possible to competition specifications as in the ECR 1.4.10.

To have event eligible for IBU QP calculation, the competition specification should be the same for U19 and U17, and respectively for U21 and Senior Men/Women age class.

Note that only **Sprint, Individual and Short Individual** competition are subject to IBU QP calculation.

C. Modification of Competition Specifications

If organizer wish to modify competition distance/s, this need to be stated in Event Invitation if exists, or at latest this information should be available at Team Captain Meeting (or Briefing).

Organizer can modify:

- *Total competition distance*
- *Length of competition loops*
- *Minimum width of the course*
- *Course profile (total maximum climb, total minimum climb, maximum climb)*
- *Start interval*
- *Venue can be located higher as ECR 3.3.2, but all participants should informed about it*

Modification is not allowed for following:

- *Shooting sequence by type of competition*
- *Penalties for missed shot*
- *Number of required shouts per shooting bout*

D. Shooting range specifications with penalty loop

In order to have IBU QP eligible event, the organizer should follow shooting range characteristics as described in ECR 3.4.

Modification is possible:

- *Number of shooting lanes; based on estimated number of participants, shooting range might have less than 30 shooting lanes*
- *Penalty loop can be minimum of 4 m wide*
- *Slight deviation from ECR 3.3.11 (entrance opening and distance from shooting range)*

E. Start, Finish and Warm-up area

Organizers should follow the specification of those areas as specified in ECR 3.2 and ECR 3.5. Also here some reasonable minor modifications are possible:

- *Whole start area can be smaller as described in 3.2, however it should offer comfortable set-up for all starting athletes*
- *The finish corridor can be only one, but not less than 4 m wide*
- *Length of the finish corridor can be minimum 25 m*
- *Finish zone can be minimum 20 m long, however it need to offer good breaking space in all skiing conditions*
- *Warm-up and Finish area can be combined space, big enough according to estimated number of starters*

F. Course preparation

In general course should follow specifications as ECR 3.3, with following modifications:

- *Minimum width can be 5 meters*
- *Tracks are not required*

G. Competition Office

Organizers should offer a Competition Office where participating team will get all necessary information and will be able to register their athlete for event. There is no obligation to create sperate accreditation system, as long as basic safety standards are fulfilled as required in host country.

H. Team Area

Team area should in general accommodate a place for common waxing facility, as instructed by IBU. In addition, there should be a common team room with changing and toilet facilities.

I. Timing

Electronic timing should be used and result management need to be in compliance with IBU Timing Partner Siwidata. When necessary, organizer can obtain relevant information at IBU HQ.

J. Registration of participants

All participants need to be register in IBU Membercenter; in case of no registration calculation of IBU QP cannot take place.

3.2 BASIC CRITERIA FOR EVENTS WITH REFERENCE TIME

Criteria is the same as for Variable Race Penalty, but without modification possibilities in the following items:

A. Age Classes

Event should follow age classes as described in ECR 1.3. However, in order to have IBU QP successfully calculated there should be at least:

- U19 Men and Women (may include U17 when competing in same format and distance)
- U21 Men and Women (may include Seniors when competing in same format and distance)

B. Types of Competitions

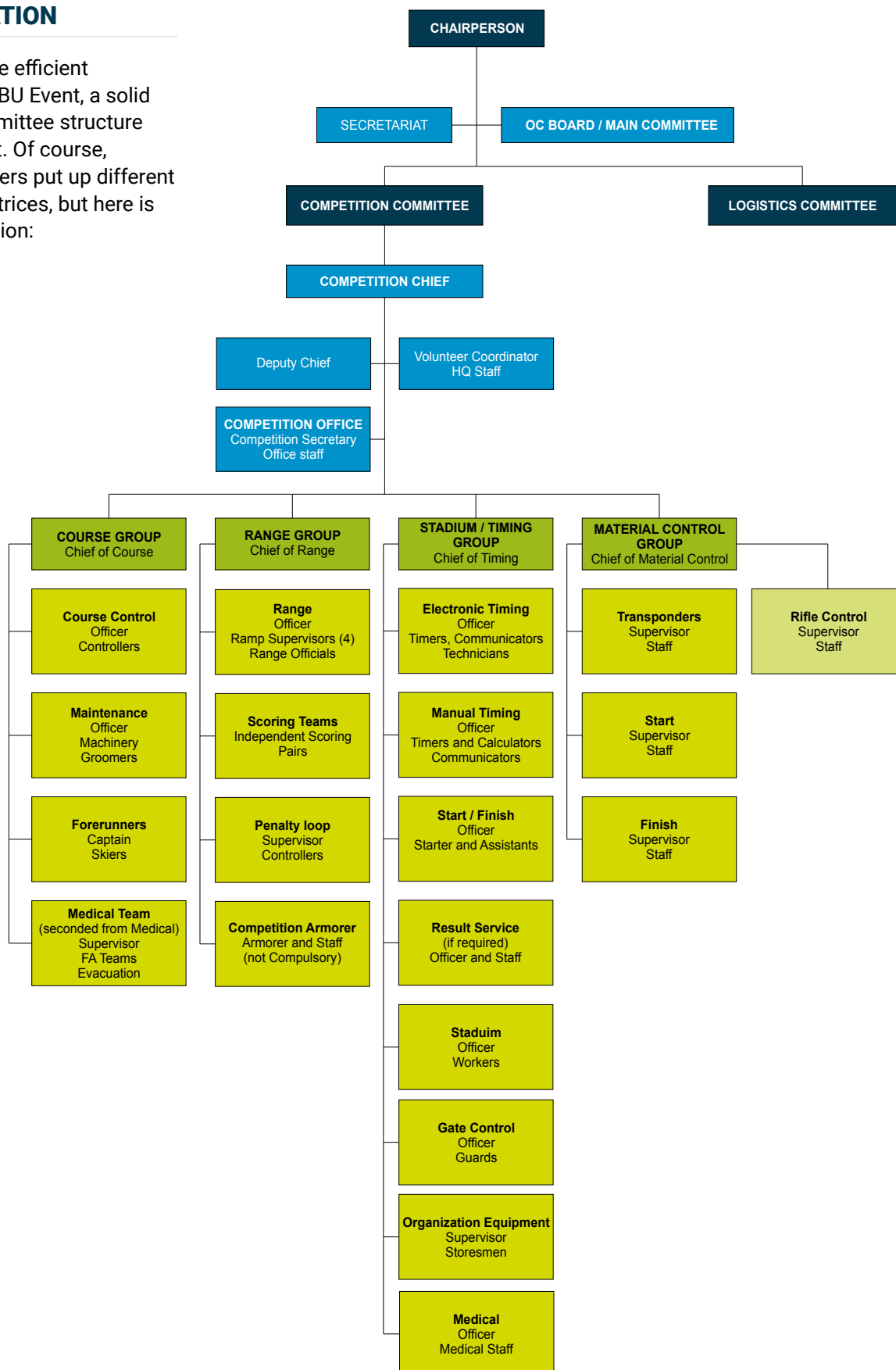
Organizers are free to choose from all types of competitions as described in ECR 1.4. but cannot change or modify competition specifications as described in the ECR 1.4.10.

To have event eligible for IBU QP calculation, the competition specification should be the same for U17 and U19, and also for U21 and Men/Women age class.

Note that only Sprint, Individual and Short Individual competition are subject to IBU QP calculation.

4. ORGANIZATION

In order to secure efficient organization of IBU Event, a solid Organizing Committee structure is very important. Of course, different organizers put up different organization matrices, but here is one possible option:



4.1 OC LOGISTIC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Logistic Committee is taking care of all issues around sport itself. When such Committee is established some characteristics should be respected:

- Local environment
- Local and Federal legislation
- Involved out-sourced companies and/or individuals. Status of general infrastructure
- Ownerships of venue
- Natural and meteorological characteristics

4.2 COMPETITION COMMITTEE

Task of the Competition Committee is to prepare, execute and also evaluate a biathlon event. It should be organized in a way that all areas and tasks are covered by a specific group. One of the most common structures handles the allocation of Officials, as follows:

- **Technical Delegate**
- **Referee Range**
- **Course Referee**
- **Start/Finish Referee**
 - Chief of Competition
 - Chief of Range
 - Chief of Course
 - Chief of Stadium (and Timing)
 - Material Control Supervisor Material Control / Referee

How many persons are involved in the whole Competition Committee is the responsibility of each OC; depending on knowledge, experience and availability of personnel. In any case, the structure needs to secure the execution of the event in a safe and fair manner in any weather conditions and according to the IBU Event & Competition Rules (as in effect).

4.3.1 SHOOTING RANGE GROUP

The Range Group is responsible for all activities on the range including preparation and organization of all activities at the range (trainings and competitions). For their work, they need proper tools and equipment which need to be prepared and controlled before final preparation. The main person is the Chief of Range who needs to closely cooperate with the IBU Referee Range.

4.3.2 COURSE GROUP

The work of the Course group begins well before the event because courses need to be prepared before snow cover in order to minimize later effort with course maintenance and preparation. Courses need to be compliant with IBU Rules and should guarantee safety and as fair as possible conditions for all athletes and other course users.

Very important is to secure enough snow with good quality. As today only natural snowfall cannot completely guarantee and secure an event, it is an advantage to secure snow from other resources such as snow storage and well-organized artificial snow production (including the latest innovations in snow factories). The Chief of Course (together with other main officials in OC) is responsible for preparing the plan of how to secure the snow in the best and most effective way. On the other hand, all snow-grooming machinery need to be double-checked well before beginning the final preparation.

4.3.3 STADIUM AND TIMING GROUP

This group in general takes care of all activities and equipment in the biathlon stadium and does not belong to range or course. It needs to be clearly divided where the stadium starts and ends, so during competitions no misunderstandings will occur. This group needs to take care of all timing equipment installed in the stadium and offer support to professional timekeepers.

4.3.4 MATERIAL CONTROL GROUP

The work of this group is specific and demands good knowledge of biathlon materials and equipment used by athletes and team officials. It is important to recruit to this group persons with some foreign language and communication skills. Staff of this group have the most personal contact with athletes, and all of them need to be treated with the same respect and approach.

During a competition, all group members need to be able to work precisely and efficiently. Athletes expect the procedures to run smoothly and in pretty much the same way at all venues. To achieve this goal the group needs to communicate and cooperate with the Referee Material Control - a basic check of all procedures will be done before each event.

5. BIATHLON VENUE

The specifications of biathlon venue for Regional Events can be adjusted according to OC capabilities. Any adjustments to specifications must be accepted by IBU prior the event.

A biathlon venue includes all areas which need to be prepared and are needed to execute a biathlon event. This guide mainly focuses on sports facilities which are most important for athletes and teams. At the same time each OC needs to take care of all other supporting facilities (sport management facilities, team area, catering for different groups, timing facilities, medical services, accommodation capacities...)

Each venue needs constant maintenance and development, including new permanent buildings and facilities, constant improvement in communication infrastructure and energy supply. Before an OC starts with any kind of reconstruction it is highly recommended to introduce the plans to IBU Officials in order to minimize possible mistakes which are discovered after the work is done.

5.1 BIATHLON STADIUM

A biathlon stadium is the area where most of the activities are in progress during events. There are two major areas: stadium and courses.

In the stadium are the start and finish area, the shooting range with penalty loop and respective corridors behind. Additionally, most of the above-mentioned support facilities are located in the stadium or in very close proximity.

Very roughly a stadium can be presented as follows:



5.2 START AREA

Depending on the competition format, different start areas need to be prepared for biathlon events. Important is that the biathlon stadium is planned in a way that the warm-up area does not need to be changed or even a change of location during the same event needs to be done. On the other hand all regulations and measurements precisely described in IBU Event and Competition Rules are to be followed.

5.3 WARM-UP AREA AND WARM-UP COURSE

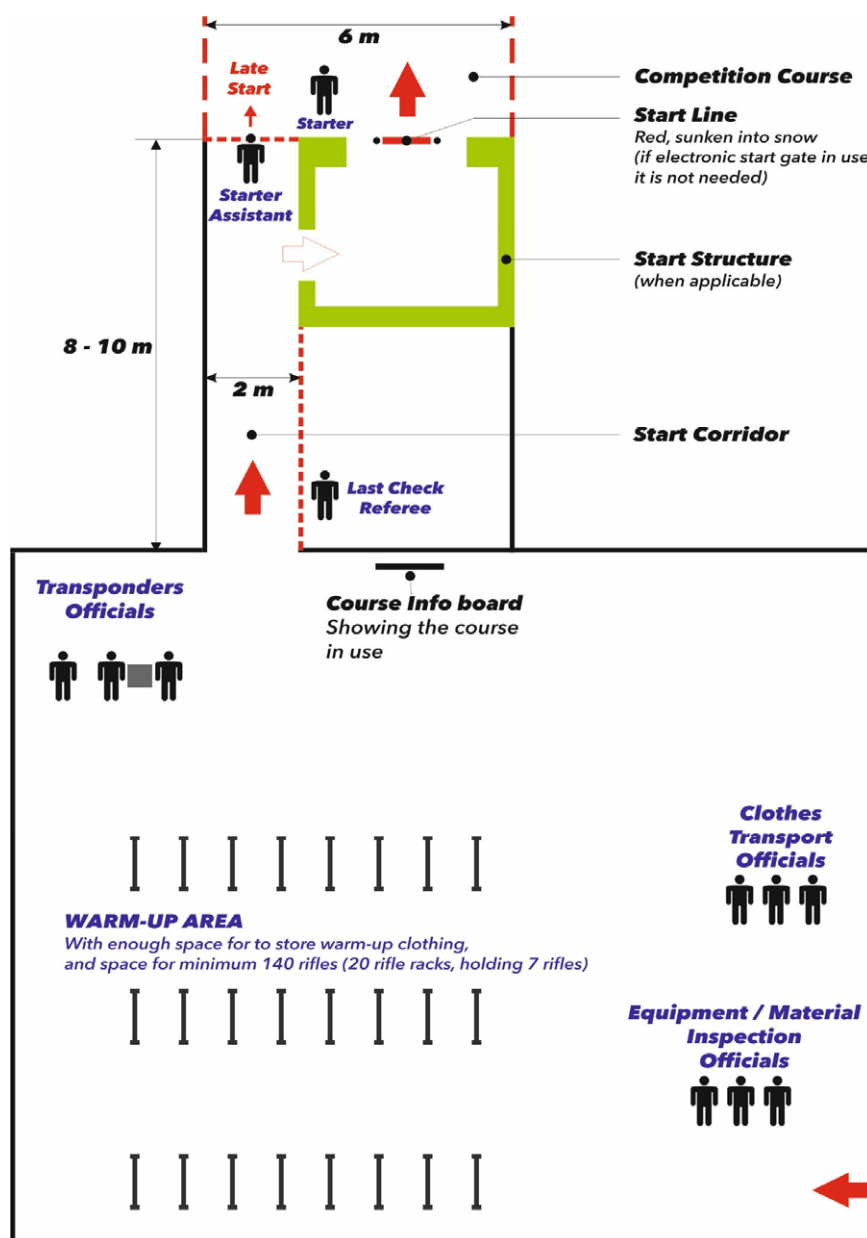
The warm-up area should be closely connected to the start area (when possible for all kind of start organizations). Because the area is mostly covered with snow it needs to be well groomed and later also well maintained. The surface should be solid but not slippery. The whole area needs to be big enough to accommodate all participating teams.

Important parts of area equipment are rifle racks (shape of racks may vary) because biathlon rifles cannot be placed on the ground. At the same time, they must offer enough space for all other team equipment. The OC needs to organize transport of athletes' clothes from start to finish area - in case those areas are not connected.

The warm-up course (**not mandatory**) should be close to the start area (up to 400 m is still acceptable). The course can be at least 400 m long and when possible organized as a loop - if not, the course needs to be wide enough (min. 8 m) to allow both-direction skiing. The warm-up course needs to be groomed as close as possible for competition course grooming; it might be used for ski testing as well. When possible OC can offer also part of the competition course for warm-up, if not in use for scheduled competition. Of course, access and exit to those areas cannot cross competition courses in use.

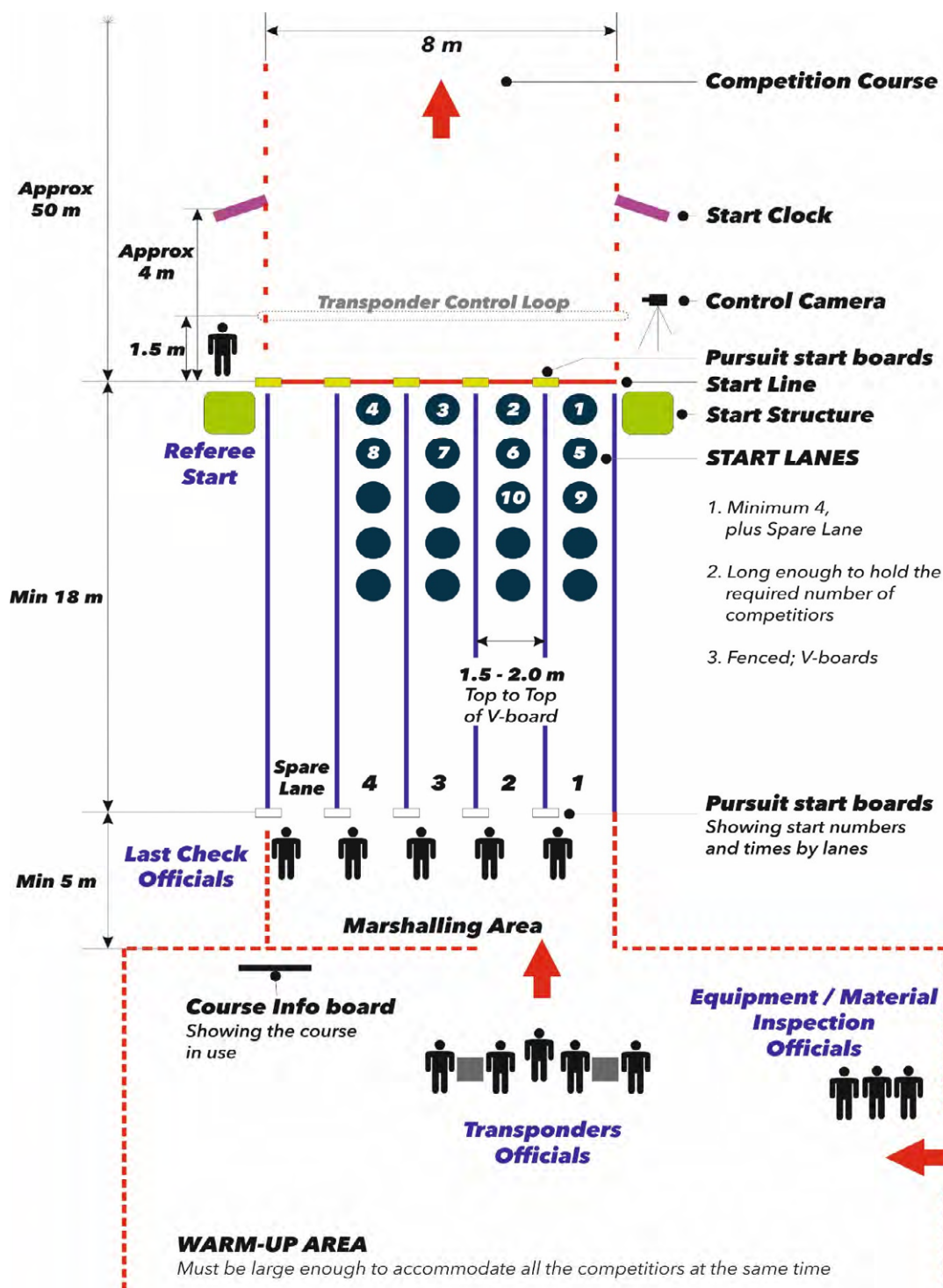
5.4 SINGLE START AREA

This setup of a start area is used for Sprint, Individual and Super Sprint competitions. The general organization of this area needs to secure a safe start procedure for athletes, without directly mixing with other athletes already competing.



5.5 PURSUIT START AREA

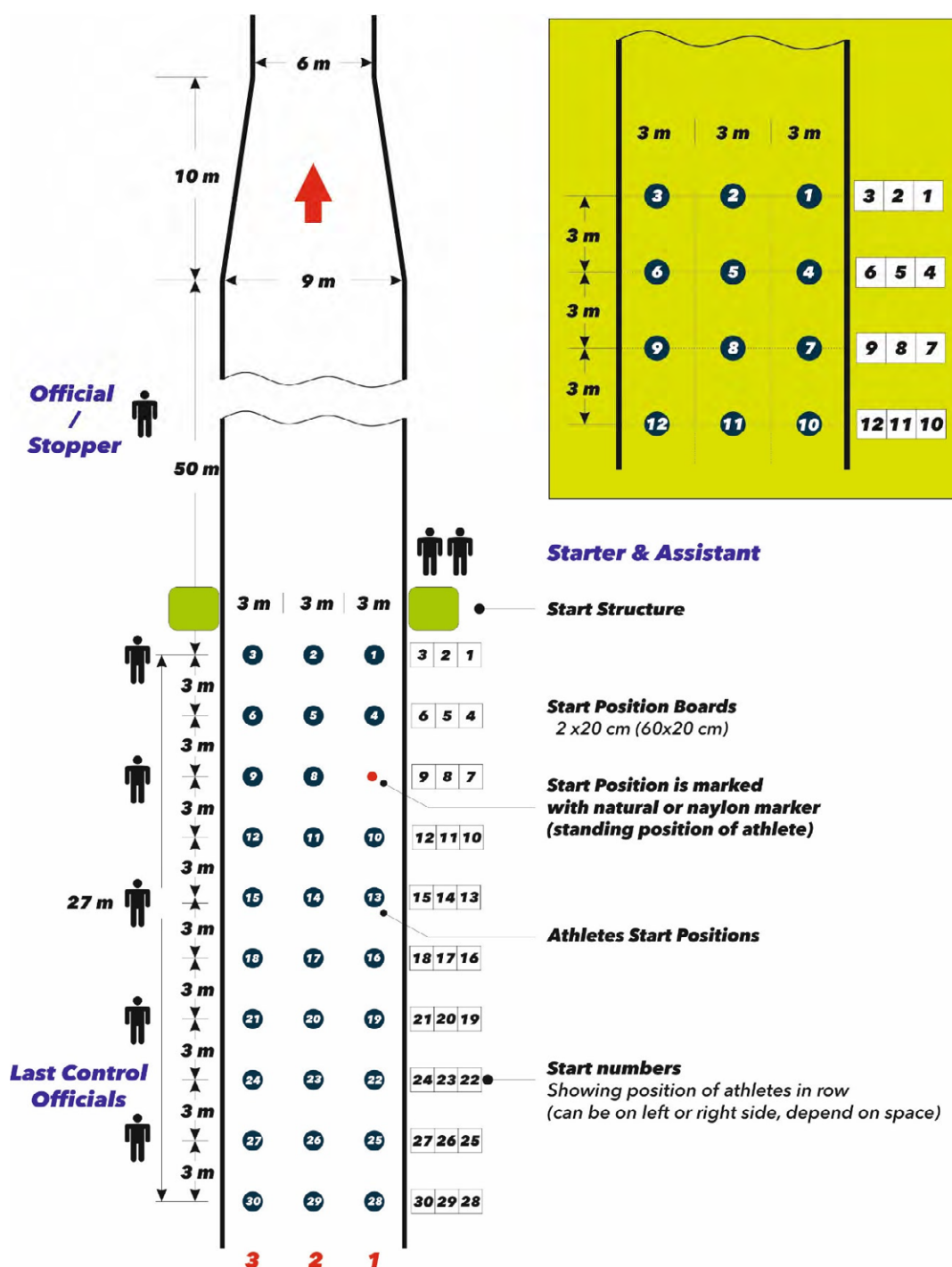
Only used for pursuit competitions



Deviations may be allowed depending on the number of participating athletes; however, there must always be a minimum of two lanes plus one spare lane.

5.6 SIMULTANEOUS START AREA

This area is used for all Relays, Mass Starts and Super Sprint Finals. To accommodate 60 athletes for the Mass Start 60 format, the area should be modified based on the available space (more than 3 athletes in one row and / ore more start rows).

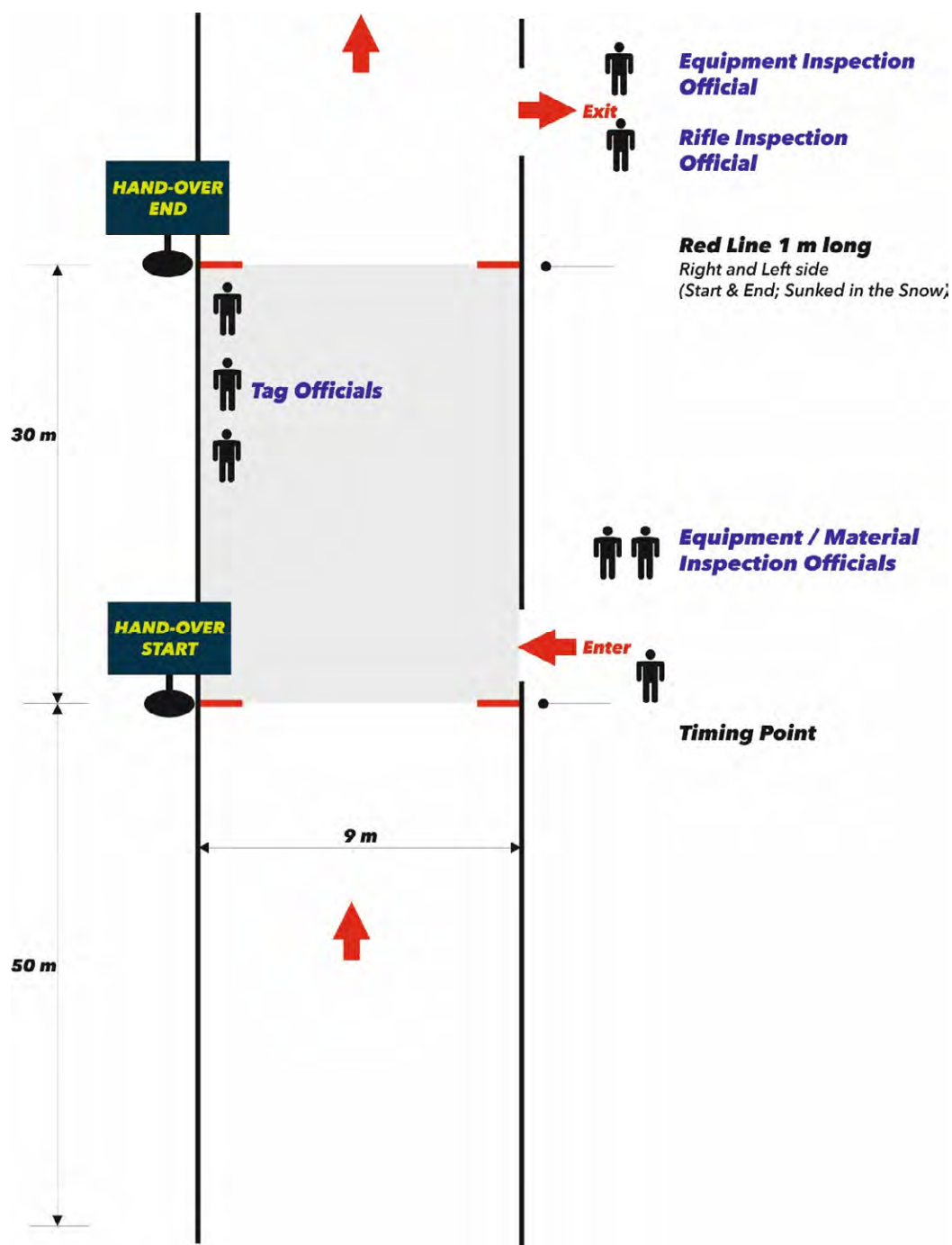


Only two athletes per row may be used, instead of three, in cases of limited space availability.

5.7 HAND OVER ZONE

The hand over zone is used for all Relay competitions, where athletes start with a tag from the previous athlete. If possible the hand over zone should be close to the warm-up area as well as to the finish area to optimize the flow of athletes going to the start and entering the finish area.

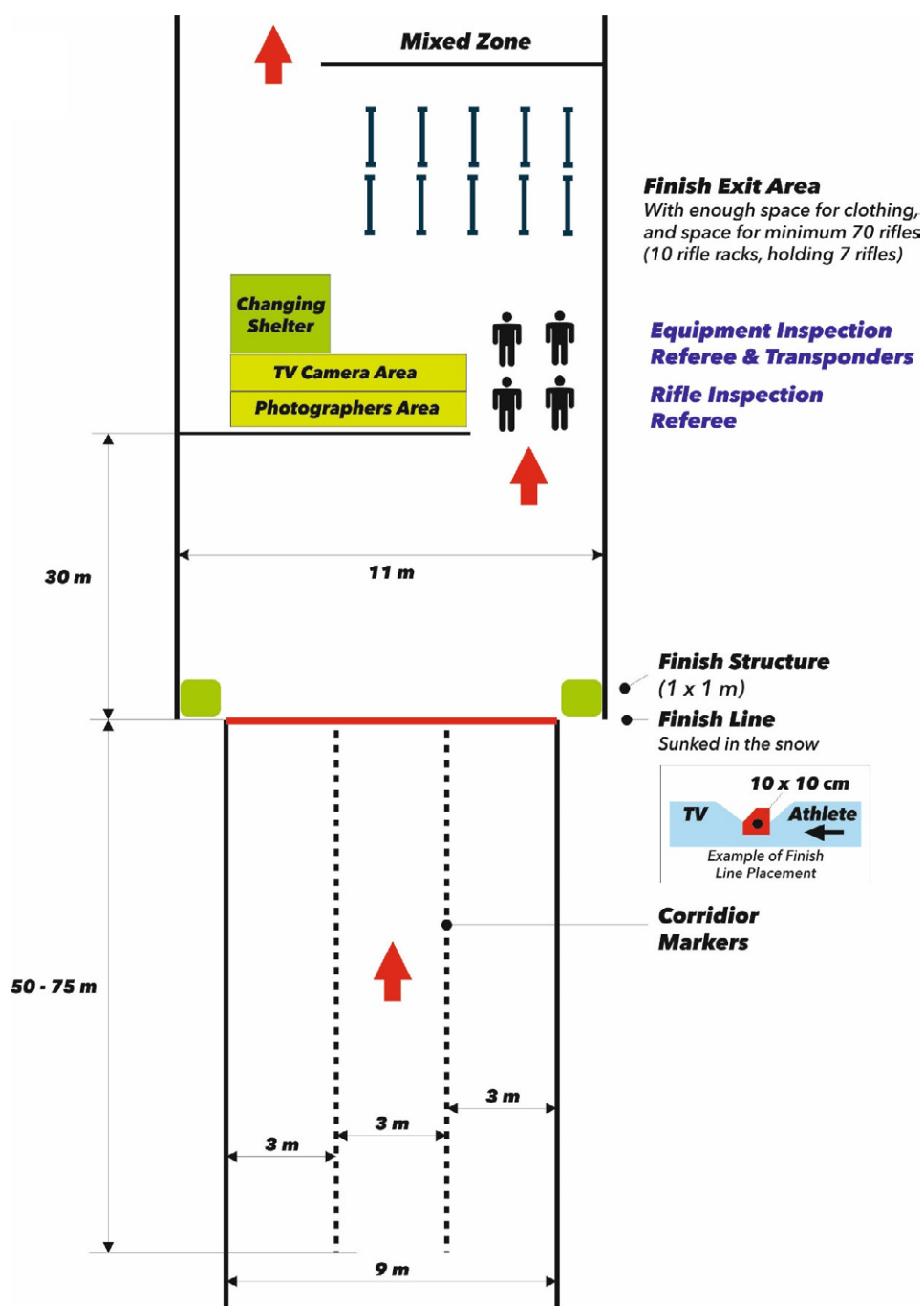
Please note that Single Mixed competitions might require a different setup of the hand over zone because it begins right after the penalty loop.



The size of hand over zone may be reduced from 9m to 6m, in cases of limited space availability.

5.8 FINISH AREA

The finish area begins right after the finish line first with a 30 m clear area which is groomed in the same way as the course to facilitate the athletes to safely reduce their speed and stop. Further, it continues to the finish exit area where all material inspections are conducted and which is the place for teams to store and hand out warm clothes for the athletes.



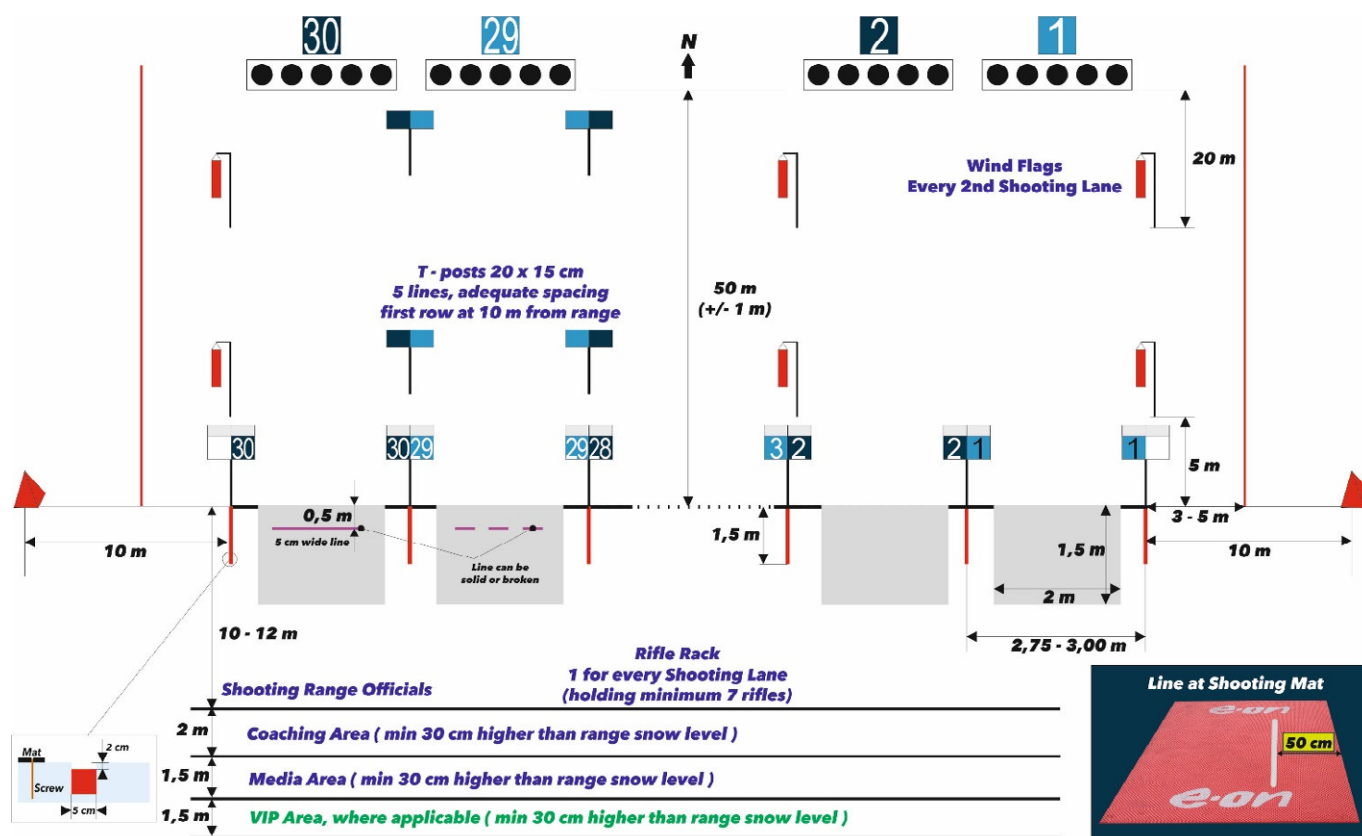
The size of finish area may be adjusted, in cases of limited space availability or small number of athletes.

5.9 SHOOTING RANGE

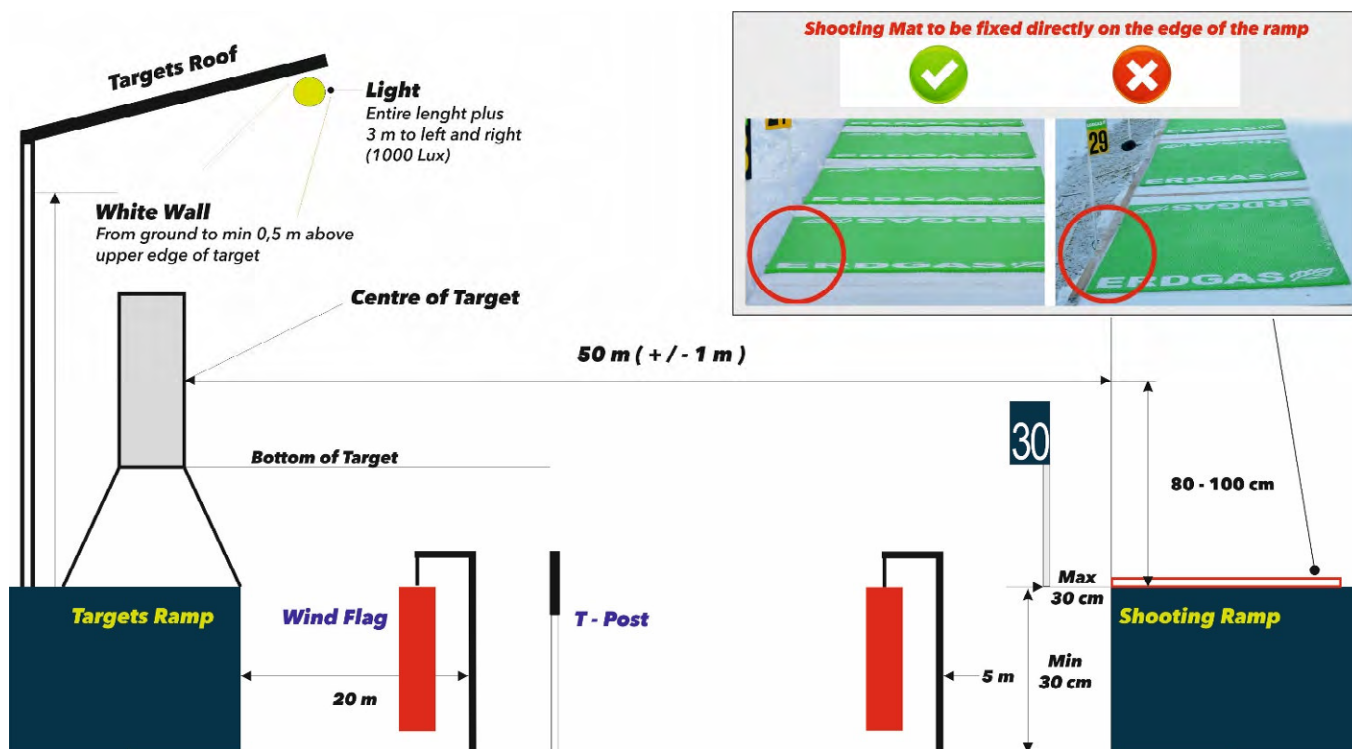
The most important issue at a shooting range is to guarantee safety at any time shooting is in progress. The IBU Rules need to be respected strictly in order to minimize potential accidents. Moreover the shooting range needs to be prepared carefully to secure as much as possible the same conditions for all athletes and without major differences to other ranges used for biathlon events.

There are different types of biathlon targets available. Currently authorized target systems are listed in the IBU Material Catalogue - Annex A. For rifle zeroing purpose a sufficient amount of paper targets also needs to be prepared to secure all trainings and competitions with the same type of paper targets (same colour, same quality). Detailed characteristics of paper targets are also described in Annex A.

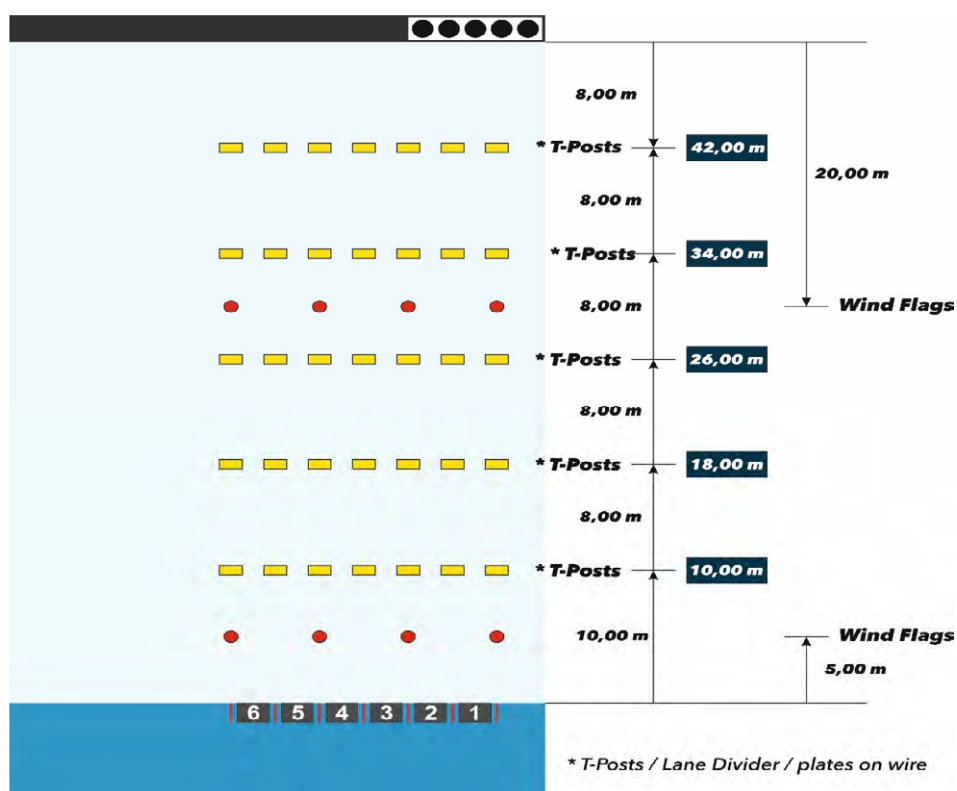
SHOOTING RANGE TOP VIEW



SHOOTING RANGE SIDE VIEW



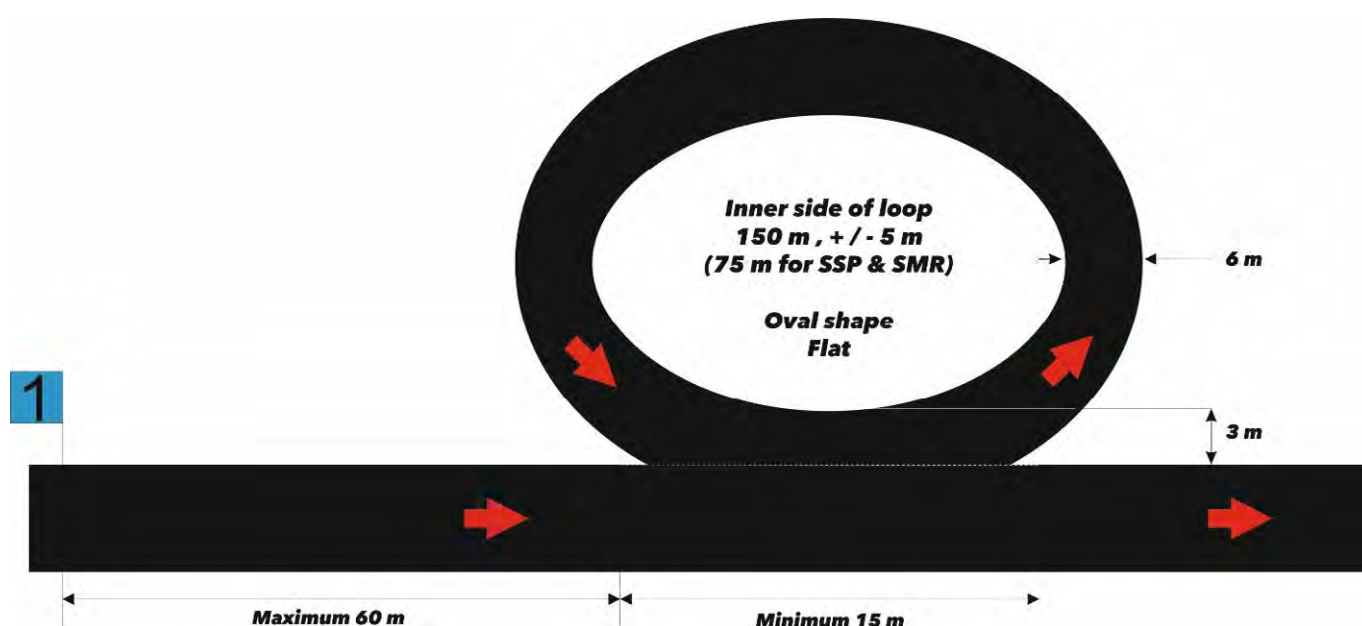
T-POSTS / LANE DIVIDERS PLACEMENT (IBU E&C rules 3.4.3.1 shooting lanes)



5.10 PENALTY LOOP

The penalty loop is located right after the shooting range exit but not more than 60 meters after shooting lane nr. 1. The area for the penalty loop needs to be flat and the loop itself has to be in an oval shape or without sharp corners. There are two lengths of penalty loops used in biathlon competitions: 150 m and 75 m

If possible the penalty loop should be marked by a closed V-board line - at least inside and especially in the corner sections (when the middle part is straight). The Length of the loop is measured along the inner border (not in the middle as the course). The Entrance/Exit should be placed in a way that the distance to enter or leave the loop does not mean a significant addition of meters to the whole distance. Since the penalty loop should be 6 meters wide the recommended placement of the inner side of the loop next to the course is not more than 3 meters, as shown in the chart below:

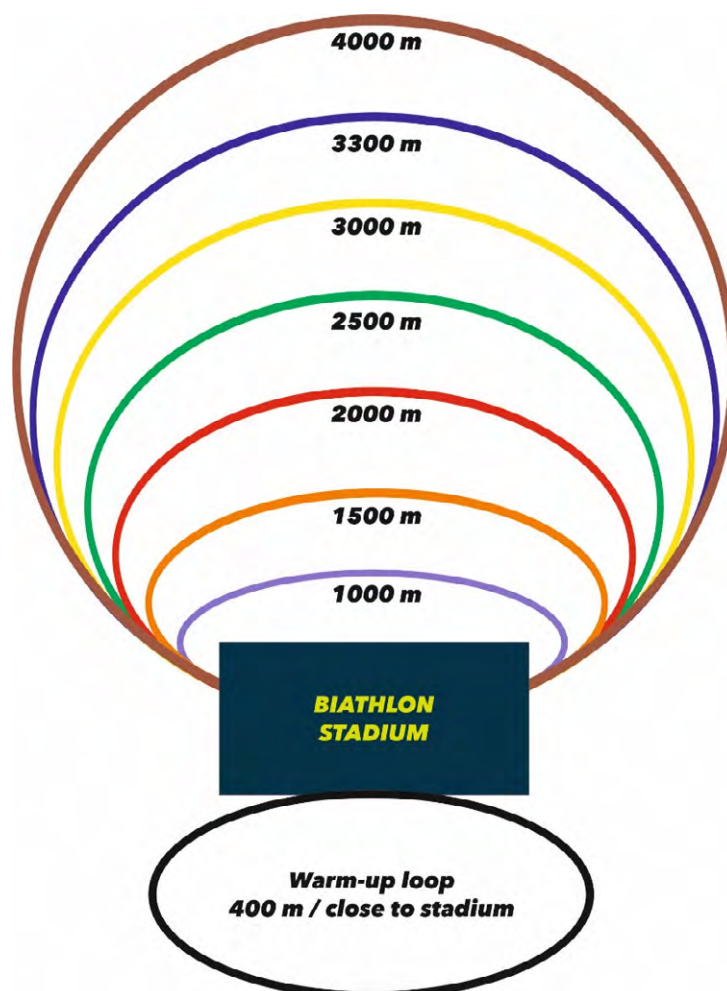


The width of penalty loop may be smaller than 6 m, in cases of limited space availability, but not less than 4 m.

6. COURSES

Courses are another essential part of the biathlon sport and some basic characteristics need to be observed:

- Minimum width has to be **5 meters** and in some parts up to 8 meters (uphills when possible).
- When necessary some short parts (not more than 50 meters) can be minimum 4 meter wide (bridges)
- Highest altitude reached by any part of course cannot exceed 1800 meters above sea level
- Maximum grade of all climbs on the course must not exceed 25%
- Maximum unbroken uphill eight difference is 50 m
- Maximum permitted difference in altitude between highest and lowest point is 80 meters for all competitions
- Actual length of competition distance may not be more than 2% shorter or 5% longer
- Course preparation must be done so that a competitor may ski it without undue risk of an accident
- To improve safety the Jury may alter the first loop of Mass Start, Pursuit or Relay competitions
- Classic track can be set for training days or can be set in some downhill sections if required by teams or officials
- When planning courses coaches' areas need to be foreseen
- For roller ski competitions the courses need to be at least 3,5 meters wide



7. MARKINGS

Each biathlon venue needs diverse markings to mark areas, lanes, targets, courses and other facilities. Most of the dimensions and placements are described in the IBU Event and Competition Rules while some can be manufactured by the OCs based on their own needs.

Be aware that some markings for top-level biathlon events need to respect the IBU Advertising Rules and IBU Venue Dressing Guide.

However some markers can be used for multiple purposes: ideally use for these cases a neutral (or venue) design without any indications (logos) of specific events.

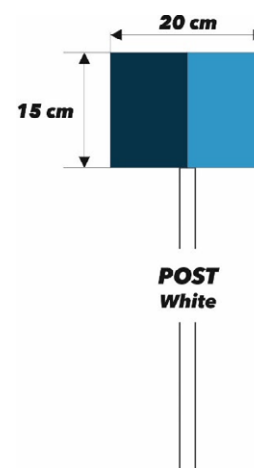
SHOOTING LANE NUMBER



PRONE/STANDING DIVIDER (Example)

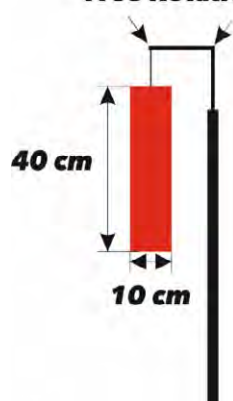


T-POST / LANE DIVIDER / POST MOUNTED ON HARD WIRE

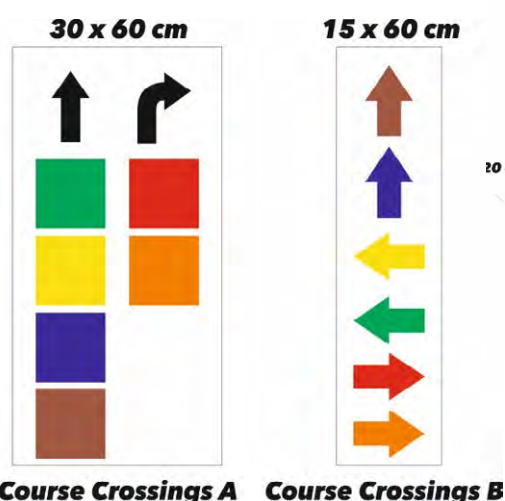


WIND FLAG (made from light material, maximum weight 5 gram, adjustable post height, highly visible colour)

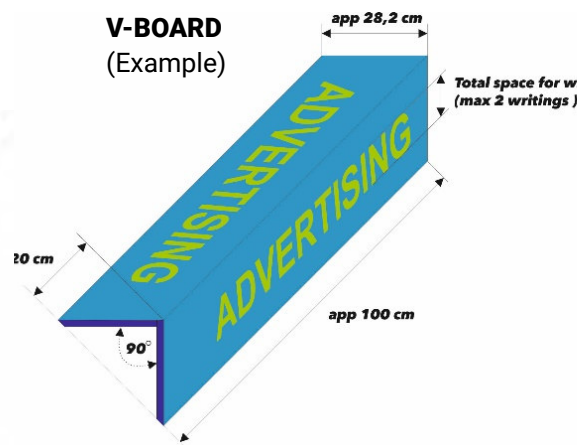
Free Rotation



COURSE JUNCTIONS' MARKERS (Example)



V-BOARD (Example)



8. COMMON WAXING RULES

The International Biathlon Union (IBU) decided to implement a full ban on ski preparation products containing fluorocarbons at all its event series from the 2023/2024 season onwards. For the IBU Junior Cup, JOECH, YJWCH, Regional Events, YOG and EYOF the fluor ban is implemented by common waxing protocol.

It is the responsibility of competitors and team staff to participate in an IBU event only with material in compliance with the pertinent IBU rules (ECR 1.5.2)

[Common waxing protocol for IBU Events](#) (Version 2024-25.1 approved by IBU TC in October 2024.)

9. IBU ADVERTISING RULES

The IBU Advertising Rules (Rules) apply to all IBU Events as defined in the IBU Event and Competition Rules (ECR). The Rules are binding to all rights holders in connection with all Advertising measures (Advertising) at IBU Events. Further specific rules define the correct use of event logos, composite logos and official layouts and are stipulated in the respective regulations such as the relevant IBU Event and Competition Rules or applicable style and venue dressing guides. These guides are available on IBU’s website [International Biathlon Union - Inside IBU Sport & Event Documents](#)

The application of the Rules is generally subordinated to the safe performance of the event. Advertising may not at any time disturb or disrupt sport-technical operations in the competition areas.

8.1 PRINCIPLE SPECIFICATIONS CONCERNING ADVERTISING MEDIA AND PRESENCE OF TV CAMERA

The definitions “Sponsor Logo” or “Logo” (defined under clause B.1 of the rules) refer to Advertising space exploitable as defined in these rules. The defined size of the sponsor may be used to display either one Sponsor Logo or multiple smaller Sponsor Logos for the same brand, within the defined Advertising space.

The competition facility includes the stadium (with grandstands etc.), the entire skiing and shooting area, and all other competition-related ground surfaces, buildings, constructions and installations for hosting the respective event. The competition facilities at the various event venues are not all alike. For this reason, it is not possible to state exact positioning specifications for Advertising media. The following fundamental specifications are to be applied accordingly to the respective competition facilities.

8.2 ADVERTISEMENT ON COMPETITION VENUE AREAS

Stadium / Penalty loop

Banners in stadium/at penalty loop:

- Height max. 120 cm; (recommended up to 100cm high)
- Unrestricted letter height, free banner design;
- Length and quantity of banners is unrestricted and variable;
- Breakers may be used as a vertical borderline (max. width 30 cm).



Shooting Range

a. Banners on shooting range left and right side wall:

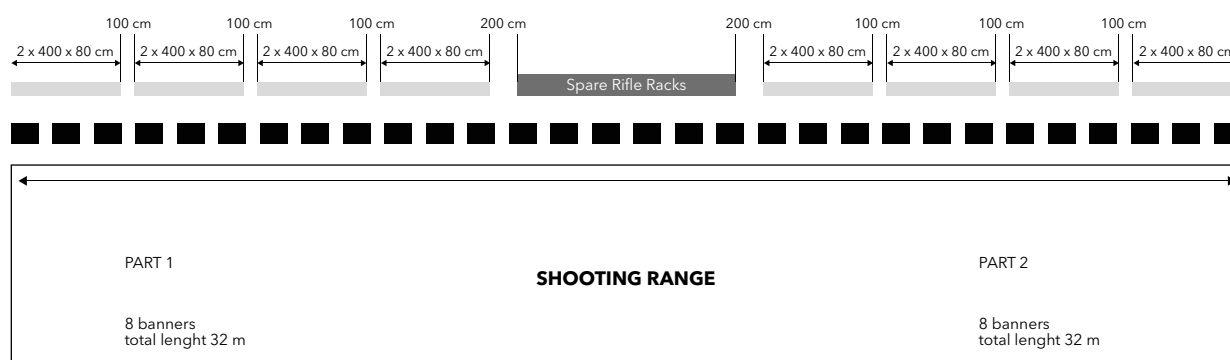
- Height max. 120 cm;
- Unrestricted letter height, free banner design;
- Length and quantity of banners is unrestricted and variable;
- Breakers may be used as vertical borderline (max. width 30 cm.)

b. Banners as borderline towards shooting range personnel:

- Sixteen (16) banners in the accustomed format 400 x 80 cm will be placed in the first section of the shooting range, with an area of one (1) meter width left empty for the shooting range staff (passageway/empty area) after every two banners.
- 35m along the first section there is a gap reserved for the rifle stands. Further passageway areas (2 m each) should be provided to the left and right of the rifle rack area.

Principles:

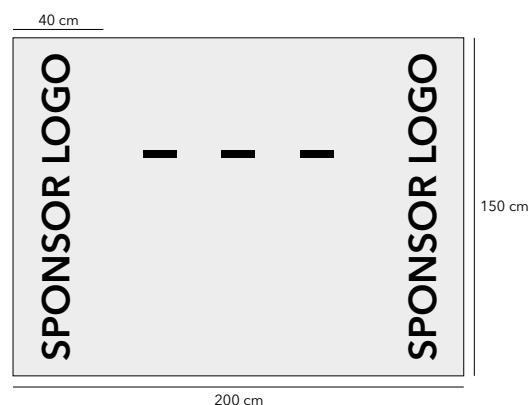
- Unrestricted letter height, free banner design;
- Position and arrangement in front of the shooting range staff, without obstruction of line-of-sight;
- Unhampered access to ramp.



c. Shooting Mats:

Advertising space on left and right side, each max. 40 cm x 150 cm, the sponsor on both sides has to be the same as well as the base colour throughout the whole mat (message may vary on each side/mat).

Base colour is generally permitted to vary, but must not change during the competition week

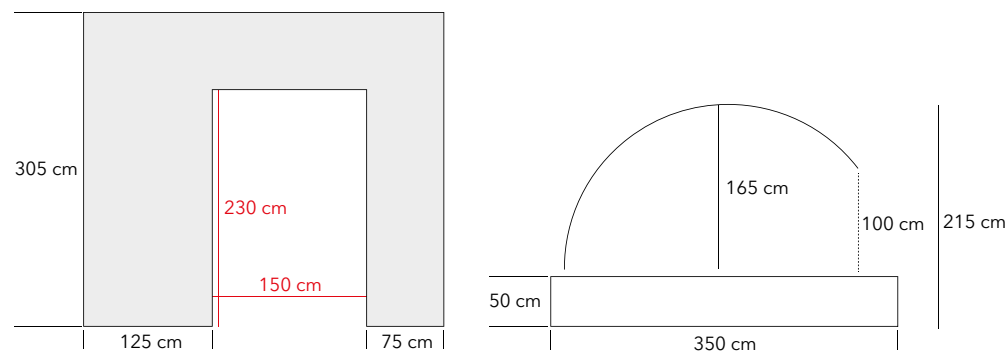


Installations in Stadium / on Course

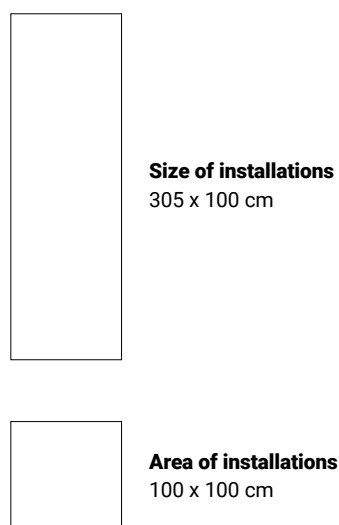
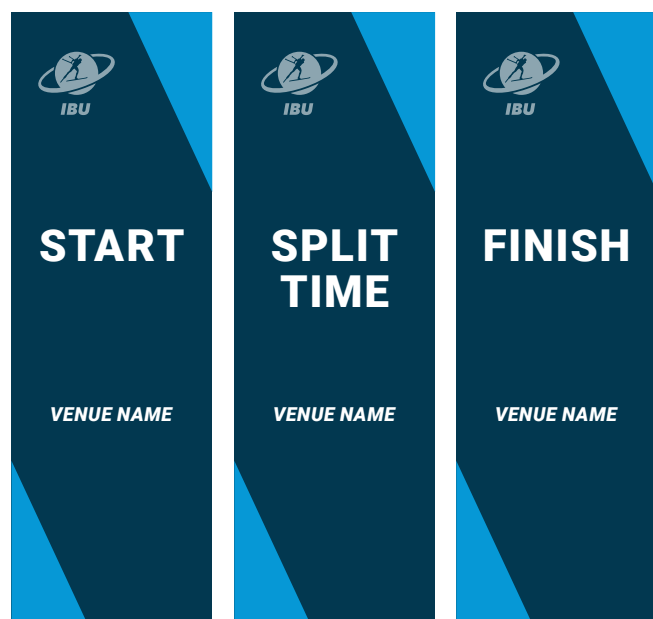
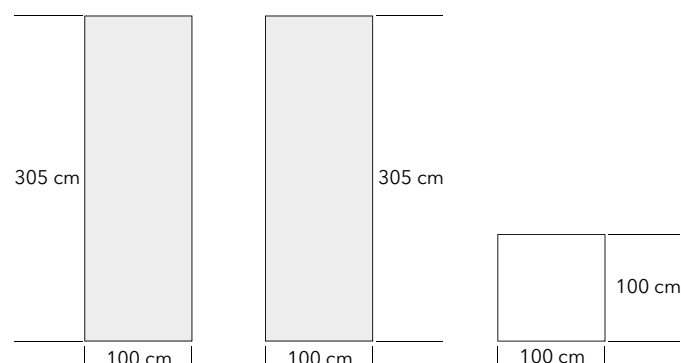
Regarding the form and dimensions of start and finish installations, please see the illustration. The shape and design is subject to change and needs to be approved by IBU. Sponsors may be featured on such installations.

All illustrations mentioned below are examples only – red marked measurements are mandatory.

a. Installations for Individual Start



b. Installations for Mass Start, Pursuit Start, Relay Start and Finish

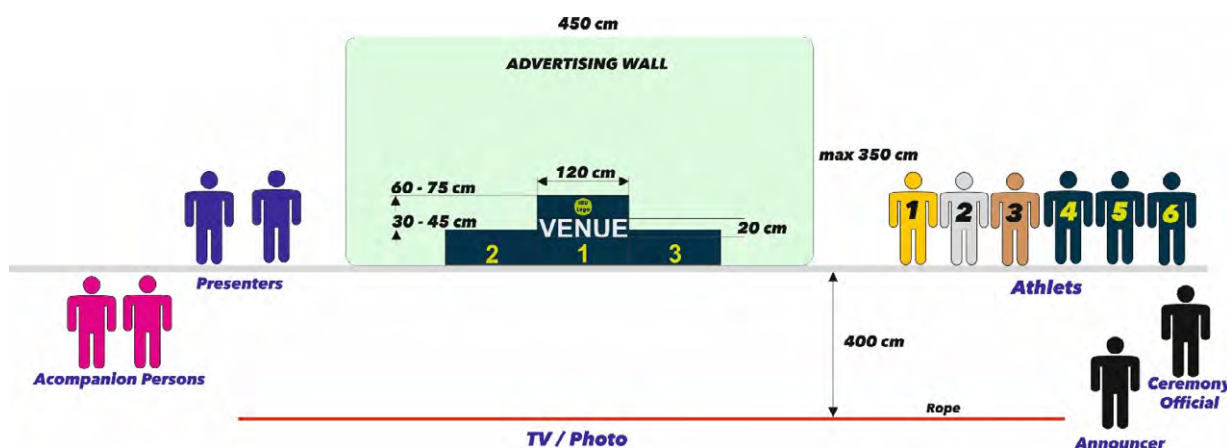


Flower Ceremony and Award Ceremony Back Wall

- Width max. 450 cm;
- Height max. 350 cm;
- Sponsors can be displayed;
- Event Logo on top left and title/presenting sponsor on top right side (if not in use, Event logo to be used twice)
- Host venue surface height: max. 21 cm.

There shall be the possibility for an appropriate integration of two (2) sponsors and the Host Venue in course of the award/prize ceremony. OC is responsible for official photos only with athletes (without any officials)

VICTORY / FLOWER CEREMONY AREA ORGANIZATION



Use of the IBU Regional Events Logo:



Regional Events Composite Logo:



The composite logo is defined as a combination of the IBU logo and the venue logo. Spacing and layout may not be changed.

If the OC will send their venue logo, the IBU will create the respective composite logo.

It is mandatory to use the Composite logo always when the Regional Event is mentioned in any manner.



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