INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON UNION

03

VERSION **2026**

IBU EVENT AND COMPETITION RULES

Adopted by the 1998 IBU Congress with amendments by the 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2024 and 2026 Congresses.

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PRINCIPLES/COLOR CODES

a) The following articles of these IBU Event and Competition Rules are 'Technical Rules' (as that term is defined in the Constitution) and therefore may be amended, rescinded or added to by the Technical Committee, without reference to any other body (but subject to the ultimate authority of Congress to annul such articles in accordance with Article 13.2.6 of the Constitution):

Art. 1.6.2 - 1.9.3
Art. 3.1.2.2
Art. 3.2 - 3.3.1.1
Art. 3.4.2.2 - 3.4.2.4
Art. 3.4.3.2
Art. 3.4.4.2
Art. 3.4.4.4 - 3.5.6
Art. 3.7 - 8.1.1
Art. 8.3.1 - 9.4.1.1
Art. 12.3 - 12.5.2
Art. 15.5

b) The following articles of these IBU Event and Competition Rules may be amended, rescinded or added to by the Executive Board, upon the proposal of the Technical Committee (but subject to the ultimate authority of Congress to annul such Articles in accordance with Article 13.2.6 of the Constitution):

Art. 1.4 - 1.4.14
Art. 1.5.1 & 1.5.2
Art. 1.6 - 1.6.1.2
Art. 2.2 - 2.3.6
Art. 2.5 - 2.7.6
Art. 3.1 - 3.1.2.1
Art. 3.1.2.3
Art. 3.1.2.4
Art. 3.3.2 - 3.4.2.1
Art. 3.4.2.5 - 3.4.3.1
Art. 3.4.4.1
Art. 3.4.4.3
Art. 3.6
Art. 8.2 - 8.2.3
Art. 9.4.2 - 12.2.3
Art. 12.6.1.2 - 12.6.1.5
Art. 12.6.2.2 - 13.3
Art. 13.4.1 - 14.2.3
Art. 15.2 - 15.4
Art. 15.6.3 - 15.9.7
Art. 16.3 - 16.9
Art. 17.3.1 - 17.5.4
Art. 18.4 - 18.6.3

c) All of the articles of these Event and Competition Rules that are not listed in (a) or (b) above are 'Reserved Rules' (as that term is defined in the Constitution) that may only be amended, rescinded or added to by Congress, upon proposal of the Executive Board or the NF Members in accordance with Article 13.2.5 of the Constitution.

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1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1.1 Application

These rules must be applied at all IBU events. At the Olympic Winter Games (OWG), these rules must be used accordingly, except when otherwise stipulated by the IOC. In other international events (as defined in the IBU Constitution), these rules will be applied unless changes, which have been authorized by the IBU, are specified in the invitation.

1.2 IBU Events and IBU-Authorized Events

Any international biathlon event at which athletes from more than two IBU member federations are invited to compete and/or intend to participate must be approved in writing in advance by the IBU upon application of the respective national member federation.

1.3 Classes of Competitors

The IBU competition season runs from 1 July to 30 June. IBU competitions are held in the following age classes:

IBU AGE CLASSES				
Saison	**Men/Women**	**U21**	**U19**	**U17**
01.07.2026 - 30.06.2027	2005 + older	2006 - 2007	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

The minimum age for participation in IBU events is the youngest U17 age specified in the table for the respective season.

1.3.1 Start in different age classes

Junior Men/Junior Women and Youth Men/Youth Women can also start in higher classes. However, at an event they may start in only one and the same age class in the Individual, Sprint and Pursuit competition. Moreover, athletes may only participate in one Relay competition (age class) per event.

(A separate list of the age groups for the classes of competitors is always available for download on the IBU website www.biathlonworld.com)

1.4 Types of Competitions

The following types of competitions are established for IBU events:

1.4.1 Men

a. Men´s 20km Individual;

b. Men´s 10km Sprint;

c. Men´s 12.5km Pursuit;

d. Men´s 4 x 7.5km Relay;

e. Men´s 15km Mass Start;

f. Men´s 4.5km Super Sprint Qualification / 7.5 km Super Sprint Final (Sprint rules apply for Super Sprint Qualification and Mass Start rules apply for Super Sprint Final, where no specific Super Sprint rules exist);

g. Men´s 15km Short Individual with 45-sec shooting penalty (IND rules apply, where no specific Short Individual rules exist and the scored points are taken into account for Individual score);

h. Men´s 15km Mass Start 60 (with 60 athletes; MS rules apply, where no specific Mass Start 60 rules exist and the scored points are taken into account for MS score).

1.4.2 Women

a. Women's 15km Individual;
b. Women's 7.5km Sprint;
c. Women's 10km Pursuit;
d. Women's 4 x 6km Relay;
e. Women's 12.5km Mass Start;
f. Women's 4.5km Super Sprint Qualification / 7.5 km Super Sprint Final (Sprint rules apply for Super Sprint Qualification and Mass Start rules apply for Super Sprint Final, where no specific Super Sprint rules exist);
g. Women's 12.5km Short Individual with 45 sec shooting penalty (IND rules apply, where no specific Short Individual rules exist and the scored points are taken into account for Individual score);
h. Women's 12.0km Mass Start 60 (with 60 athletes; MS rules apply, where no specific Mass Start 60 rules exist and the scored points are taken into account for MS score).

1.4.3 Men and Women/Mixed Relays

a. Mixed Relay 4 x 6km (M+W)
b. Single Mixed Relay 6km Men + 7.5km Women (only 1,5 km loop to be used)

Or

a. Mixed Relay 4 x 6km (W+M)
b. Single Mixed Relay 6km Women + 7.5km Men (only 1,5 km loop to be used)

1.4.4 Junior Men (U21)

a. Junior Men's 15km Individual (penalty 45 sec);
b. Junior Men's 10km Sprint;
c. Junior Men's 12.5km Pursuit;
d. Junior Men's 4 x 7.5km Relay;
e. Junior Men's 12.5km Mass Start;
f. Junior Men's 4.5km Super Sprint Qualification / 7.5km Super Sprint Final (Sprint rules apply for Super Sprint Qualification and Mass Start rules apply for Super Sprint Final, where no specific Super Sprint rules exist);
g. Junior Men's 12km Mass Start 60 (with 60 athletes; MS rules apply, where no specific Mass Start 60 rules exist and the scored points are taken into account for MS score).

1.4.5 Junior Women (U21)

a. Junior Women's 12.5km Individual (penalty 45 sec);
b. Junior Women's 7.5km Sprint;
c. Junior Women's 10km Pursuit;
d. Junior Women's 4 x 6km Relay;
e. Junior Women's 10km Mass Start;
f. Junior Women's 4.5km Super Sprint Qualification / 7.5km Super Sprint Final (Sprint rules apply for

Super Sprint Qualification and Mass Start rules apply for Super Sprint Final, where no specific Super Sprint rules exist);

g. Junior Women's 9km Mass Start 60 (with 60 athletes; MS rules apply, where no specific Mass Start 60 rules exist and the scored points are taken into account for MS score).

1.4.6 Junior Men and Junior Women/Mixed Relays (U21)

a. Mixed Relay 4 x 6km (JM+JW)

b. Single Mixed Relay 6km Junior Men + 7.5km Junior Women (only 1,5 km loop to be used)

Or

a. Mixed Relay 4 x 6km (JW+JM)

b. Single Mixed Relay 6km Junior Women + 7.5km Junior Men (only 1,5 km loop to be used)

1.4.7 Youth Men (U19)

a. Youth Men's 12.5km Individual (penalty 45 sec);

b. Youth Men's 7.5km Sprint;

c. Youth Men's 10km Pursuit;

d. Youth Men's 3 x 7.5km Relay;

e. Youth Men's 10km Mass Start;

f. Youth Men's 4.5km Super Sprint Qualification / 7.5km Super Sprint Final (Sprint rules apply for Super Sprint Qualification and Mass Start rules apply for Super Sprint Final, where no specific Super Sprint rules exist);

g. Youth Men's 12.0 km Mass Start 60 (with 60 athletes; MS rules apply, where no specific Mass Start 60 rules exist and the scored points are taken into account for MS score).

1.4.8 Youth Women (U19)

a. Youth Women's 10km Individual (penalty 45 sec);

b. Youth Women's 6km Sprint;

c. Youth Women's 7.5km Pursuit;

d. Youth Women's 3 x 6km Relay;

e. Youth Women's 7.5km Mass Start;

f. Youth Women's 4.5km Super Sprint Qualification / 7.5km Super Sprint Final (Sprint rules apply for Super Sprint Qualification and Mass Start rules apply for Super Sprint Final, where no specific Super Sprint rules exist);

g. Youth Women's 9.0km Mass Start 60 (with 60 athletes; MS rules apply, where no specific Mass Start 60 rules exist and the scored points are taken into account for MS score).

1.4.9 Youth Men and Youth Women/Mixed Relays (U19)

a. Mixed Relay 4 x 6km (YM+YW)

b. Single Mixed Relay 6km Youth Men + 7.5km Youth Women (only 1,5 km loop to be used)

Or

a. Mixed Relay 4 x 6km (YW+YM)

b. Single Mixed Relay 6km Youth Women + 7.5km Youth Men (only 1,5 km loop to be used)

1.4.10 Competition Specifications

The following articles 1.4.10.1, 1.4.10.2, 1.4.10.3 and the Table in 1.4.10.4 set out the skiing and shooting specifications of classes of IBU competitors and types of competitions, and apply to all IBU events.

The Competition Jury may, in exceptional course conditions, adjust the distance between shooting bouts and course specifications in order to secure the conduct of the competition.

1.4.10.1 Height Difference (hd)

The maximum permitted difference in altitude between the highest and lowest points on the competition course is 80 m for all competitions.

1.4.10.2 Maximum climb (mc)

The maximum permitted height difference of an ascent, without either a flat part or a descent of at least 200 m in length, is 50 m for all competitions.

1.4.10.3 Maximum grade (mg)

The maximum grade of all climbs on the course must not exceed 25 percent.

1.4.10.4 Competition specifications - Table 1

Column 1 Class of Competitor: according to these Rules.

Column 2 Type of Competition: according to these Rules.

Column 3 Competition Distance.

Column 4 Start Types and Intervals: the method by which the start is made and the interval between the starts of two consecutive competitors.

Column 5 Number of Ski Loops: course rounds to be skied by the competitor.

Column 6 Length of single loop used for competition.

Column 7 Shooting Bouts: the number of shooting bouts the competitor must do and the shooting position to be used in the bout (P = Prone, S = Standing), the number of rounds the competitor must fire in each bout.

Column 8 Shot Penalties: automatic shot-penalty - 1 minute / 45 seconds of added time or a 150 m / 75 m penalty loop - imposed on a competitor for each target left standing after all rounds for the bout have been fired.

Column 9 Minimum Total Climb (tc): the (minimum required) total vertical ascent in the competition (the sum of all the ascents) for each competitor.

Column 10 Maximum Total Climb (tc): the (maximum allowed) total vertical ascent in the competition (the sum of all the ascents) for each competitor.

Column 11 Loop Minimum Total Climb (tc): the (minimum required) total vertical ascent for one loop in the competition (the sum of all the ascents) for each competitor.

Column 12 Loop Maximum Total Climb (tc): the (maximum allowed) total vertical ascent for one loop in the competition (the sum of all the ascents) for each competitor.

Notes to Table 1 *Height Difference (hd): the maximum permitted difference in altitude between the highest and lowest points on the competition course is 80 m for all competitions. Maximum climb (mc): the maximum permitted height difference of an ascent, without either a flat part or a descent of at least 200 m in length, is 50 m for all competitions. Maximum grade (mg): the maximum grade of all climbs on the course must not exceed 25 percent.*

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.		10.		11.	12.
	Competition Format	Competition Distance (m)	Standard Start Types and Intervals	Number of skiing loops	Length of the Loop (m)	Shooting sequences 5 rounds per bout, plus 3 spare rounds for Relays	Penalty for missed shot	Minimum Total Climb per Competition (m)		Maximum Total Climb per Competition (m)		Minimum Total Climb per Loop (m)	Maximum Total Climb per Loop (m)
								2019	Old*	2019	Old*		
MEN	**INDIVIDUAL**	20.000	Single, 30 sec	5	4.000	P - S - P - S	60 sec	550	600	800	800	110	160
	SHORT INDIVIDUAL	15.000	Single, 30 sec	5	3.000	P - S - P - S	45 sec	400	400	600	600	80	120
	MASS START 30	15.000	Simultaneous	5	3.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	400	350	600	500	80	120
	MASS START 60	15.000	Simultaneous	6	2.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	420	400	600	600	70	100
	PURSUIT	12.500	Pursuit	5	2.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	350	350	500	500	70	100
	SPRINT	10.000	Single, 30 sec	3	3.300	P - S	150 m	270	300	405	450	90	135
	RELAY	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.500	P - S	150 m	210	200	300	300	70	100
	MIXED RELAY 2.0 km loop	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY men first	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	4	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	120	100	240	240	30	60
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY men second	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	5	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	150	125	300	300	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	4.500	Single, 15 sec	3	1.500	P - S	75 m	90	-	180	-	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT FINAL	7.500	Simultaneous	5	1.500	P - P - S - S	75 m	150	-	300	-	30	60
WOMEN	**INDIVIDUAL**	15.000	Single, 30 sec	5	3.000	P - S - P - S	60 sec	400	400	600	600	80	120
	SHORT INDIVIDUAL	12.500	Single, 30 sec	5	2.500	P - S - P - S	45 sec	350	400	500	600	70	100
	MASS START 30	12.500	Simultaneous	5	2.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	350	350	500	500	70	100
	MASS START 60	12.000	Simultaneous	6	2.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	330	400	480	600	55	80
	PURSUIT	10.000	Pursuit	5	2.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	275	200	400	300	55	80
	SPRINT	7.500	Single, 30 sec	3	2.500	P - S	150 m	210	200	300	300	70	100
	RELAY	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	MIXED RELAY 2.0 km loop	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY women first	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	4	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	120	100	240	240	30	60
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY women second	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	5	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	150	125	300	300	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	4.500	Single, 15 sec	3	1.500	P - S	75 m	90	-	180	-	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT FINAL	7.500	Simultaneous	5	1.500	P - P - S - S	75 m	150	-	300	-	30	60

* For venues with licensed courses (valid at cut-off date: October 15th 2019) the old values are still accepted until the courses are changed/renewed on site.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.		10.		11.	12.
	Competition Format	Competition Distance (m)	Standard Start Types and Intervals	Number of skiing loops	Length of the Loop (m)	Shooting sequences 5 rounds per bout, plus 3 spare rounds for Relays	Penalty for missed shot	Minimum Total Climb per Competition (m)		Maximum Total Climb per Competition (m)		Minimum Total Climb per Loop (m)	Maximum Total Climb per Loop (m)
								2019	Old*	2019	Old*		
JUNIOR MEN (U21)	**INDIVIDUAL**	15.000	Single, 30 sec	5	3.000	P - S - P - S	45 sec	400	400	600	600	80	120
	MASS START 30	12.500	Simultaneous	5	2.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	350	300	500	500	70	100
	MASS START 60	12.000	Simultaneous	6	2.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	330	300	480	500	55	80
	PURSUIT	12.500	Pursuit	5	2.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	350	350	500	500	70	100
	SPRINT	10.000	Single, 30 sec	3	3.300	P - S	150 m	270	300	405	450	90	135
	RELAY	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.500	P - S	150 m	210	200	300	300	70	100
	MIXED RELAY 2.0 km loop	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY men first	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	4	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	120	100	240	240	30	60
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY men second	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	5	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	150	125	300	300	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	4.500	Single, 15 sec	3	1.500	P - S	75 m	90	-	180	-	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT FINAL	7.500	Simultaneous	5	1.500	P - P - S - S	75 m	150	-	300	-	30	60
JUNIOR WOMEN (U21)	**INDIVIDUAL**	12.500	Single, 30 sec	5	2.500	P - S - P - S	45 sec	350	350	500	500	70	100
	MASS START 30	10.000	Simultaneous	5	2.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	275	200	400	400	55	80
	MASS START 60	9.000	Simultaneous	6	1.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	180	150	360	325	30	60
	PURSUIT	10.000	Pursuit	5	2.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	275	200	400	400	55	80
	SPRINT	7.500	Single, 30 sec	3	2.500	P - S	150 m	210	200	300	300	70	100
	RELAY	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	MIXED RELAY 2.0 km loop	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY women first	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	4	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	120	100	240	240	30	60
	SINGLE MIX. RELAY women second	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	5	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	150	125	300	300	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	4.500	Single, 15 sec	3	1.500	P - S	75 m	90	-	180	-	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT FINAL	7.500	Simultaneous	5	1.500	P - P - S - S	75 m	150	-	300	-	30	60

* For venues with licensed courses (valid at cut-off date: October 15th 2019) the old values are still accepted until the courses are changed/renewed on site.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.		10.		11.	12.
	Competition Format	Competition Distance (m)	Standard Start Types and Intervals	Number of skiing loops	Length of the Loop (m)	Shooting sequences 5 rounds per bout, plus 3 spare rounds for Relays	Penalty for missed shot	Minimum Total Climb per Competition (m)		Maximum Total Climb per Competition (m)		Minimum Total Climb per Loop (m)	Maximum Total Climb per Loop (m)
								2019	Old*	2019	Old*		
YOUTH MEN (U19)	**INDIVIDUAL**	12.500	Single, 30 sec	5	2.500	P - S - P - S	45 sec	350	350	500	500	70	100
	MASS START 30	10.000	Simultaneous	5	2.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	275	200	400	400	55	80
	MASS START 60	12.000	Simultaneous	6	2.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	330	300	480	500	55	80
	PURSUIT	10.000	Pursuit	5	2.000	P - P - S - S	150 m	275	200	400	400	55	80
	SPRINT	7.500	Single, 30 sec	3	2.500	P - S	150 m	210	200	300	300	70	100
	RELAY	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.500	P - S	150 m	210	200	300	300	70	100
	MIXED RELAY 2.0 km loop	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY men first	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	4	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	120	100	240	240	30	60
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY men second	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	5	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	150	125	300	300	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	4.500	Single, 15 sec	3	1.500	P - S	75 m	90	-	180	-	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT FINAL	7.500	Simultaneous	5	1.500	P - P - S - S	75 m	150	-	300	-	30	60
YOUTH WOMEN (U19)	**INDIVIDUAL**	10.000	Single, 30 sec	5	2.000	P - S - P - S	45 sec	275	200	400	350	55	80
	MASS START 30	7.500	Simultaneous	5	1.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	150	125	300	300	30	60
	MASS START 60	9.000	Simultaneous	6	1.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	180	150	360	325	30	60
	PURSUIT	7.500	Pursuit	5	1.500	P - P - S - S	150 m	150	125	300	300	30	60
	SPRINT	6.000	Single, 30 sec	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	200	240	300	55	80
	RELAY	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	MIXED RELAY 2.0 km loop	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	3	2.000	P - S	150 m	165	150	240	250	55	80
	SINGLE MIXED RELAY women first	6.000	Simultaneous and Tag	4	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	120	100	240	240	30	60
	SINGLE MIX. RELAY women second	7.500	Simultaneous and Tag	5	1.500	P - S + P - S	75 m	150	125	300	300	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	4.500	Single, 15 sec	3	1.500	P - S	75 m	90	-	180	-	30	60
	SUPER SPRINT FINAL	7.500	Simultaneous	5	1.500	P - P - S - S	75 m	150	-	300	-	30	60

* For venues with licensed courses (valid at cut-off date: October 15th 2019) the old values are still accepted until the courses are changed/renewed on site.
A recommendation for the set-up of age categories for continental/regional and national events may be downloaded from the IBU homepage in its current version. www.biathlonworld.com

1.4.11 Specifications for Single Mixed Relay, Super Sprint and Mass Start 60

a. Each team competing in the single mixed relay is comprised of one woman and one man. The sex of the first starter can be alternated at different competitions and will be stated in the competition calendar. For example: the woman starts, and after shooting both prone and standing, tags off to the man in a hand-over area located just after the penalty loop. The male competitor then shoots both prone and standing and tags off to the same woman again. Each competitor on the team completes four bouts of shooting and the associated ski loops. After the final bout of shooting by the male competitor, he skis the 1.5 km course and goes to the finish. In case of alternated sexes, the male starts first and the female competitor will ski the final loop to the finish. Lapped competitors must move to the side and stop competing in the competition immediately when they are overtaken by the leading competitor. The penalty loop for this competition is 75 m in length. All other rules and procedures for relays apply to the single mixed relay.

b. Super Sprint consists of a qualification and a final competition, which take place on the same day. The course used for the Super Sprint is a 1.5 km loop. For the qualification (single start), three loops with two shooting bouts (p, s) have to be skied, and for the final (mass start), five loops with four shooting bouts (p, p, s, s) have to be skied. The penalty loop is 75 m long. The best 30 athletes from the qualification qualify for the final. In case of tied ranks, the athlete better ranked in the respective current Total Score will qualify for the final. If still tied or both athletes unranked, where applicable the athlete with less IBU Qualifying points will qualify and otherwise a simple draw shall be conducted.

c. The Mass Start 60 consists of 60 participating athletes who all start together. The competition consists of six skiing loops with four shootings (p, p, s, s). The penalty loop is 150m long.

The start-set-up is the same as for the traditional Mass Start, just with 60 athletes instead of 30. The first 30 athletes (bib 1-30) continue skiing without shooting or passing the range, and they go for a second loop on the course. 30 athletes (bib 31-60) ski up to the range for their first shooting bout. After the second loop, the procedure is vice versa: The first 30 athletes (bib 1-30) shoot their first bout of shooting. The second 30 athletes (bib 31-60) continue skiing without shooting. After all athletes have conducted their first shooting bouts (in acc. with Art. 8.2.1), the competition is organized as in a pursuit, i.e. the first athlete coming up to the range for the second prone shooting will be directed to lane 1, the second ranked athlete to lane 2, etc. EC Rule 9.2.3 applies analogously as in traditional Mass Starts.

Note: *The order of athletes can be alternated, especially for lower-level competitions where the quality of athletes can vary greatly; i.e. the TC and/or the Competition Jury can set a procedure whereby bibs 31-60 ski up to the range first (after the first loop of skiing) to even out the aforementioned quality differences as well as possible.*

1.4.12 Modifications and Other Types of Competitions

The IBU reserves the right to modify existing competitions and to introduce new types of competitions into IBU events.

1.4.13 Event Programs

The schedule, sequence and types of IBU competitions at events will be set by the IBU Executive Board (EB), on the recommendation of the Technical Committee (TC).

1.4.14 Annual Schedule of Events

IBU events will be held annually as stated in the event rules or as directed by the EB. The yearly schedules will be published by the IBU. Dates for the events will be published starting from the day of arrival until the last competition day.

1.5 Eligibility Rules for Competitors and Team Staff

1.5.1 General

Only such competitors and team staff are eligible to participate in IBU events who fulfil all eligibility requirements set out in the IBU Constitution, including Art. 7.1.9, and all requirements specified in the IBU Family Profile within the prescribed deadlines.

Biathlon Refugee Team: Athletes who are recognized as refugees acc. to Art. 7.1.9.6 of the IBU Constitution, provided they fulfill all the mentioned requirements as well as personal qualification criteria (if applicable), will be eligible to compete as a "Biathlon Refugee Team" (BRT) Athletes' participation must be managed by their host country of residence according to the ECR. The "BRT" should be handled from a quota/Wild card perspective (at all IBU events) as a separate group similar to an NF with a maximum quota to be decided by the IBU Executive Board depending on the existing number of refugees. "BRT" athletes will not compete in relays, Nation Cup points will not be awarded for the "BRT" but personal Cup points and medals/awards can be earned.

1.5.2 Responsibility of Competitors and Team Staff

Competitors and team staff may only participate in an IBU event or competition with materials, equipment, clothing and advertising that are in compliance with the pertinent IBU rules, including the IBU Advertising Rules. It is the competitors' and team staff's responsibility to ensure that all rules regarding material and advertising are followed and that they undergo materials, equipment and clothing inspections before the start and after the finish. All competitors participating in IBU competitions must be ready to prove their nationality, age and sex with their national passport or official photo identification document.

1.5.3 Qualification Criteria

1.5.3.1 Olympic Winter Games (OWG)

As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in OWG events, a competitor must have 180 IBU qualifying points or less on the applicable IBU Qualifying Points List published in accordance with 1.5.3.7 before the OWG, or fulfill the following criteria during the current or previous season:

Compete in two competitions, earning 150 IBU qualifying points or less at eligible Regional Events, JC, JWCH, IBU Cup, OECH, WCH and/or WC in the Sprint or Individual.

All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

1.5.3.2 World Championships (WCH)

As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in WCH events, a competitor must have 180 IBU qualifying points or less on the applicable IBU Qualifying Points List published in accordance with 1.5.3.7 before the WCH, or fulfill the following criteria during the current or previous season:

Compete in at least one competition, earning 150 IBU qualifying points or less at eligible Regional Events, JC, JWCH, IBU Cup, OECH, WC or OWG in the Sprint or Individual.

All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

1.5.3.3 World Cup (WC)

The World Cup season consists of three trimesters generally made up of three WC events each, usually WC 1-3, WC 4-6 and WC 7-9. As the minimum qualification requirement to compete in WC events, a competitor must have 150 IBU qualifying points or less on the applicable IBU Qualifying Points List published in accordance with 1.5.3.7, or fulfil the following criteria:

Compete in at least one competition, earning 125 IBU qualifying points or less at eligible Regional Events, JC, JWCH, IBU Cup, OECH, WC, WCH or OWG in the Sprint or Individual during the current or preceding trimester.

All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

1.5.3.4 IBU Cup and OECH

The IBU Cup season consists of three trimesters generally made up of two to three events each, including OECH.

As the minimum requirement to compete in IBU Cup/OECH, a competitor must have 300 IBU QP or less on the applicable IBU Qualifying Points List published in accordance with 1.5.3.7.

1.5.3.5 Junior Cup and JWCH

As the minimum requirement to compete in IBU Junior Cup/JWCH, a competitor must have 400 IBU QP or less on the applicable IBU Qualifying Points List published in accordance with 1.5.3.7

1.5.3.6 IBU Qualifying Point Calculations

IBU qualifying points are calculated for each competitor's result in Sprint, Individual and Super Sprint competitions at IBU Cup, OECH, WC, WCH and OWG using the following formula:

IBU Qualifying Points = ((athlete's time/winner's time) -1) x Race Factor) + Race Penalty

Definitions: Race Factor: for Sprint and Individual competitions 800;

Race Penalty: the sum of the points of the three highest ranked athletes in the top 10 divided by 3.75;

The race penalty for all WC, WCH and OWG competitions is zero (0).

IBU qualifying points will also be calculated at IBU Junior Cups, JWCH, eligible IBU Regional Events with a formula that will be adjusted to the level of competition and published prior to the season start (latest July 1st before the next season start). Upon confirmation of the IBU Technical Committee (TC), additional events may be considered.

1.5.3.7 IBU Qualifying Points List

The IBU Qualifying Points List shall be published on November 1 and after each trimester, or at other times as scheduled and announced annually by the IBU EB. The most recently published list shall be the applicable IBU Qualifying Points List and shall remain valid until superseded by a subsequently published list. The applicable IBU Qualifying Points List shall be used for qualification eligibility, draw-group determination, race penalty calculations and all other purposes in these Rules where reference is made to the IBU Qualifying Points List, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

The IBU Qualifying Points List shall be calculated based on competitions scored within the last 365 days according to the following rules:

COMPETITIONS SCORED IN LAST 365 DAYS	CALCULATION FOR POINTS LIST
3 or more	Average of the best 3
2	Average 2 x 1.10
1	Points earned x 1.2

1.5.3.8 Safety at all IBU Events

Athletes who start at an IBU event must prove that they can safely handle the sports equipment. The RD and/or Competition Jury may stop individuals from starting or remove them from the competition if there is reason to suspect they cannot safely handle the sports equipment or that they are hindering the fair conduct of the competition.

1.5.4 Force Majeure/Extraordinary Circumstances

Competitors who are hindered in achieving qualification for any IBU event due to force majeure and/or extraordinary circumstances and/or pregnancy/maternity leave may submit a petition to the IBU Sports and Event Director for consideration by a special working group consisting of three members: the IBU Sports and Event Director, the Chairman of the IBU Technical Committee and one assigned IBU Executive Board Member.

This working group will quickly determine if the competitor's previous qualification is to remain valid for the trimester in which the competitor wishes to start. For the sake of good coordination, the competitor or his/her national federation must inform the respective IBU Race Director of his/her intention to start in a timely manner to facilitate event registration.

1.6 Registration and Entry

1.6.1 Notice of Intent to Participate at IBU Events

There are two separate forms of notification which must be given: registration and entry.

1.6.1.1 Registration, Replacements and Accommodation Reservations

Registration is the early notification of intent to participate. The number of competitors and team staff members that may be registered for an event are detailed in the event-specific rules. All athletes intended to participate in IBU events must be properly and timely subscribed/registered in the IBU Membercenter (online database). The timeline for such subscription/registration as well as the required documents are announced by the IBU. Registration for events must be done as follows:

a. WCH and JWCH

   At the WCH and JWCH, the estimated number of competitors and team staff (registration by number) must be received by the OC 8 weeks before the official arrival day for the WCH or JWCH. At least 2 weeks before the official arrival day of the WCH or JWCH, a list of the names and gender of the intended participants (registration by name) must be received from each NF by the OC. Registered participants may only be replaced before the first team captains' meeting. If the team arrives after the first team captains' meeting, replacements must be announced to the OC and will become binding on the arrival day.

b. WC Events

   At WC events, the estimated number of biathletes and team staff (registration by number) must be received by the OC 4 weeks before the official arrival day for the WC. A list of the names and gender of the intended participants (registration by name) must be received by the OC at least 2 weeks before the official arrival day of the WC. Replacements and changes to WC registrations may only be made before the first team captains' meeting. If the team arrives after the first team captains' meeting, replacements must be announced to the OC and will become binding on the arrival day.

   Athletes who have qualified in the IBU Cup for the WC may only be entered in the WC of the following week or later. Relay competitions are exempt from this rule.

c. OWG

   Registration for the OWG must be in compliance with IOC instructions.

d. Other Events

   Registration for all other IBU events must be completed at least 4 weeks before official arrival day for registration by number, and at least 2 weeks before official arrival day for registration by name. Replacements and changes to registrations may only be made before the first team captains' meeting. If the team arrives after the first team captains' meeting, replacements must be announced to the OC

and will become binding on the arrival day.

e. NFs not registered in time

NFs that have not registered their team by number and by name by the official deadline may participate if it is approved by the RD.

f. Accommodation reservations

Accommodation reservations and bookings are handled according to the invitation and/or respective accommodation regulations approved by the EB.

g. Registration of Team Staff

NFs are allowed to register team staff per gender according to the following table:

NUMBER OF REGISTERED ATHLETES	TEAM STAFF QUOTA
1	4
2	5
3	6
4	7
5	8
6	9
7 or more	10

1.6.1.2 All athletes competing in IBU events must possess both sufficient liability insurance, and sufficient accident insurance covering accident, recovery and transport costs - including competition-related risks - to an adequate extent. In addition, by the act of submitting their registration the NF confirms that its athletes are medically fit to compete at the time of submitting their registration.

All coaches, team staff and officials registered and/or deployed by a national federation to an IBU event must possess both sufficient liability insurance, and sufficient accident insurance covering accident, recovery and transport costs to an adequate extent.

National federations are responsible for ensuring that their athletes, coaches, team staff and officials registered and deployed by them have the appropriate insurance coverage.

National federations and/or their athletes must be able to furnish proof of the respective insurance coverage at any time upon the request of the IBU, of the IBU's representatives and/or of the organizing committee concerned.

1.6.2 Entry

a. Entry is the notification of an athlete or team being entered to start in a specific competition, and must be submitted in writing or via online registration system by the stated deadline for the Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions at all IBU events. By making an entry, the NF confirms that the competitor will be present and ready to start the competition.

b. At all IBU events, teams and competitors´names must be entered in Relay and Mixed Relay competitions in writing by the stated deadline.

c. Entries in the Pursuit competition are not required, as all competitors who qualify for the Pursuit in the qualifying competition are assumed to be entered. Names of qualified athletes who will not be starting in the Pursuit competition must be reported to the competition office as soon as possible and at the latest by the start of the zeroing.

d. Entries for the Mass Start competition are not required, as qualification is based on the performance in the respective current Total Score and/or on event results. Names of athletes qualified for the Mass

Start competition must be confirmed by a signed, written form presented to the competition office or via online registration system as soon as possible and at least two hours before the start. The number of competitors that may be entered in competition are stated in the event rules.

e. A competitor/athlete can only be entered once for a competition.

1.6.3 Registration Procedures

As stated in the invitation, registration must be sent in writing, by e-mail or via the online registration system, to the address indicated in the invitation before the deadline. For all IBU events, registration must be performed by the NF. For the OWG, IOC regulations apply.

1.6.4 Late Entries

a. The Race Director (RD)/Technical Delegate (TD) may approve a late entry due to extraordinary circumstances before the draw.

b. The Competition Jury may approve a late entry after the draw due to force majeure. The Competition Jury will decide what position(s) the late competitor(s) will start in. A separate draw may be used for this purpose.

1.6.5 Replacement of Entry - Force Majeure

If an entered competitor cannot start due to force majeure, another registered competitor may take his place, but not later than 30 minutes before the competition start time of the Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint Qualification and Relay competitions.

1.6.6 Replacement of Registered Athletes/Delayed Registration for Athletes – for Relays

The Competition Jury may allow a team to replace up to two competitors with up to two non-registered competitors such that the team may compete in Relay competitions. Alternatively, teams may also register up to two additional competitors within the NFs quota later during the competition week before the respective Relay competition.

1.7 Draw and Assignment of Start Numbers

1.7.1 General

Competitors or teams will be randomly selected from the entries for the competition, by manual or computer draw, and will be assigned their start numbers based on that draw unless there are other rules applying to that competition. The method of the draw must be approved by the RD/TD.

1.7.2 Time of Draws

The draw for any competition must not be held earlier than 24 hours before the start of the competition. However, in events at which a draw is required for the Mass Start or Relay competitions, the draw for the Mass Start and Relay competitions may be held at the team captains' meeting for the competition which will precede the respective Mass Start or Relay competitions in the event program. If the Competition Jury decides to repeat a competition or to postpone a competition, they will also decide whether a new draw must be made.

1.7.3 Place of Draws

Draws should be held during, and at the location of, the team captains' meetings, and should be visible to all team captains; however, the RD /TD may approve for a draw to be held outside of the team captains' meeting. Such outside draws must be supervised by the TD; jury members can attend the draw as well.

1.7.3.1 Normal Assignment of Competitors into Draw Groups

When submitting their entries, team captains must assign one competitor to each of the draw groups. If a team consists of fewer competitors than the number of draw groups, the team captains will decide which groups they will place their competitors in (one in each group chosen). If a team consists of more

competitors than the number of draw groups, the extra competitors will be added to the draw groups at the team captain's discretion, one to each group, repeating this procedure until all the team's competitors have been placed.

1.7.4 Normal Draw for Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification Competitions

a. Normal Draw for Individual and Sprint Competitions

Generally, there are four start groups at all IBU competitions. The starting order will be decided by randomly drawing the names of competitors from the draw groups into which they have been assigned by their team captains and by randomly drawing the start number for each competitor. The draw will be held separately for each group in this sequence: group 1, group 2, group 3, and group 4. If the draw in the Individual or Sprint competition is expected to have 60 or less competitors, the draw will be done in three groups. If there are 40 or less, the draw will be done in two groups following the same principle as for the four draw groups.

b. Normal Draw for Super Sprint Qualification

In addition to Art. 1.7.4. a, Competition Jury may adjust the draw for top 15 ranked competitors from the current WC Total Score in a way, that they cannot start immediately after each other.

1.7.4.1 Draw Group System for WC

At a WC, competitors must be entered in draw groups as described in Art. 1.7.3.1 above. The top 15 ranked competitors from the current WC Total Score may be placed in any draw group. However, a NF may not place more than three competitors in any of the four draw groups.

For the first World Cup event of the season, the World Cup Total Score from the previous season will apply. For the remaining World Cup events, the current World Cup Total Score will apply. If a top 15 ranked competitor from the last year's WC Total Score does not participate in the first WC, that competitor will have the option of being drawn in groups 1 or 2 in WC 2. Additionally, competitors with 70,00 or more IBU Qualifying Points in the applicable IBU Qualifying Point List and those not on the current list may only be entered in draw groups 3 and 4. In case of extraordinary conditions, the Competition Jury may suspend the requirement for competitors with 70,00 or more IBU Qualifying Points at the applicable IBU Qualifying Point List and those not on the applicable list to start in groups 3 and 4. This decision must be announced at least two (2) hours prior to the entry deadline for the respective competition.

The IBU EB may decide to adapt the draw group system or decide to use a different system. In such case, the details have to be announced in due time before the season start.

1.7.4.2 Draw Group System at WCH and OWG

At the OWG and WCH, competitors must be entered in draw groups as described in Art. 1.7.3.1 above. The top 15 ranked competitors from the current WC Total Score may be placed in any draw group. However, a NF may not place more than three (3) competitors in any of the four draw groups, including the current world champion/Olympic champion.

Additionally, competitors with 70,00 or more IBU Qualifying Points in the applicable IBU Qualifying Point List and those not on the applicable list may only be entered in draw groups 2, 3 and 4. In case of extraordinary conditions, the Competition Jury may suspend the requirement for competitors with 70,00 or more IBU Qualifying Points at the applicable IBU Qualifying Point List and those not on the current list to start in groups 2, 3 and 4. This decision must be announced at least two (2) hours prior to the entry deadline for the respective competition.

The IBU EB may decide to adapt the draw group system or decide to use a different system. In such case, the details have to be announced in due time before the season start.

1.7.4.3 Draw Group System at IBU Cup and OECH

At the OECH and IBU Cup, competitors must be entered in draw groups as described in 1.7.3.1 above. The top 15 ranked competitors from the current IBU Cup Total Score may be placed in any draw group. However, a NF may not place more than three competitors in any of the four draw groups. For the first IBU Cup event of the season, the IBU Cup Total Score from the previous season will apply. For the remaining IBU Cup events, the current IBU Cup Total Score will apply.

Additionally, competitors with 150,00 or more IBU Qualifying Points in the applicable IBU Qualifying Point list and those not on the applicable list may only be entered in draw groups 3 and 4. In case of extraordinary conditions, the Competition Jury may suspend the requirement for competitors with 150,00 or more IBU Qualifying Points in the applicable IBU Qualifying Point List and those not on the applicable list to start in groups 3 and 4. This decision must be announced at least two (2) hours prior to the entry deadline for the respective competition.

1.7.5 Draw for Group Starts in Sprint, Individual and Super Sprint Qualification Competitions

At international events other than the OWG, WCH, JWCH, WC, OECH, and IBU Cup, competitors in Sprint, Individual and Super Sprint Qualification competitions may start individually or in groups. If the start is held in groups, the draw groups will be divided into start groups. The number of competitors in the start groups will depend on the conditions at the competition venue and on the total number of competitors. Otherwise, the draw will be the same as for single starts. For a group start, the numbers drawn will determine the competitors' positions at the start.

1.7.6 Assignment of Start Numbers and Start Times in the Pursuit Competition

No draw will be conducted for the Pursuit competition. Competitors will be assigned start numbers and times based on the results of the qualifying competition, which may be an Individual, Sprint or Mass Start competition as stated in the invitation. Competitors in the Pursuit will start in the same order in which they finished the qualifying competition: the winner of the qualifying competition will start first with start number 1; the athlete placed second in the qualifying competition will start second with start number 2, and so on. Start positions will be numbered from right to left, facing the direction of the start. The winner of the qualifying competition will have a start time of zero (0) which will be shown on the start list as the clock time for the start of the Pursuit competition. The remaining competitors in the Pursuit competition will have as their start time the actual time by which they were behind the winner in the Sprint or Mass Start competition or – in the Individual – one half of the time behind the winner, expressed in time behind to the nearest full second. Start lists will be produced based on the foregoing results and must show which start lane has been assigned to each competitor. If there is a tie for 60th place in the qualifying competition, both of the tied competitors will be allowed to start in the Pursuit.

In all IBU events' pursuit competitions, all competitors whose start times are more than four minutes after the leader's start time will be started simultaneously four minutes after the first start, but their actual competition times will show their times calculated from their actual start times in the qualifying competition.

1.7.7 Assignment of Start Numbers and Start Positions in the Mass Start Competition

A provisional start list will be made within two hours after the last qualifying competition. The start list will be finalized at the deadline specified in the event program, but latest two hours before the start, by which time team captains must have confirmed their starters. Start numbers at IBU events will be assigned according to the applicable event rules. At all other events, if no appropriate ranking list is in force, a single random draw will be used to assign the start numbers for all competitors. There may not be more competitors than the number of targets available (an exception applies to Mass Start 60). Each competitor's start number will designate their start position in that competition.Start positions will be numbered from right to left, facing the direction of the start.

1.7.8 Assignment of Start Numbers and Start Positions in the Super Sprint Final Competition

A provisional start list will be made immediately after the qualifying competition. There may not be more competitors than the number of targets available. In case of a tied place 30, the athlete better ranked in the respective current Total Score will qualify for the final. If still tied or both athletes unranked, where applicable the athlete with less IBU Qualifying points will qualify and otherwise a simple draw will decide. Each competitor's start number will designate their start position in that competition. Start positions will be numbered from right to left, facing the direction of the start.

1.7.9 Assignment of Start Numbers for Relay Competitions

1.7.9.1 Method of Assigning Relay/Mixed Relay/Single Mixed Relay Start Numbers

At OWG, WCH and WC events, no draw will be made for the Relay/Mixed Relay/Single Mixed Relay, and start numbers will be assigned based on the current standings in the WC Relay score, or the sum of the current season's Mixed Relay scores for the Mixed Relay, or the sum of the current season's Single Mixed Relay scores for the Single Mixed Relay – with the top ranking team receiving number 1, the second number 2, and so on. If a team or number is missing, all teams below it will move upward in number. In the first WC Relay, Mixed Relay or Single Mixed Relay of the season, the previous year's respective final Relay standings will be used to set the start numbers. At OECH, the previous year's OECH Relay/Mixed Relay/ Single Mixed Relay results ranking will be used to set the start numbers in the same manner as above. At the JWCH, start numbers are assigned according to Art. 12.6.2.5. A single random draw will be used for all unranked NFs, and for CC events. The assigned Relay start number will also be each team's start position in the simultaneous start, and their shooting lane number on the range (for the first bout of shooting only). Specific rules for the Relay/Mixed Relay/Single Mixed Relay apply at the IBU Cup and Junior Cup.

1.7.9.2 Competitors' Relay Start Positions

Start positions are numbered from right to left, facing the direction of the start. Number 1 is the position furthest to the right and the highest number of the front row is the position furthest to the left. The lowest number in the second row is placed behind number 1 and the next consecutive number behind number 2, and so on.

1.7.9.3 Extra Relay Teams

Extra relay teams will not be permitted at OWG, WCH, JWCH, WC, IBU Cup, OECH, IBU Junior Cup and JOECH competitions. At other events, extra relay teams will be permitted; however, they must start in rows behind the official teams and will not be awarded official prizes. Extra teams may consist of members from more than one NF.

1.8 Team Captains' Meeting

1.8.1 General

At each biathlon event, meetings must be held for the team captains to elect the juries, conduct draws and to pass on information about the event and the competitions. The first meeting must be held before the first official training in order to elect the Competition Jury and where applicable the Jury of Appeal. In regard to further meetings at the event, the dates and times will be dictated by the time required to conduct the draws. The Competition Chief will chair the meetings. Meeting can be held online, when necessary or agreed between OC and IBU.

1.8.2 Attendance at Team Captains' Meetings

The following persons will, if at all possible, attend the team captains' meetings:

- the official IBU EB representative;

- the RD, TD(s) and IBU Referees;

- competition and appeal jury members;
- at least one representative from each participating team;
- the Competition Chief;
- the Chiefs of Range, Course, Timing and Results, Stadium, Logistics, and the Competition Secretary or their representatives;
- the necessary meeting support staff and interpreters, if required.

1.8.3 Team Captains' Meeting Agenda

The agenda for a team captains' meeting must include the following items, as appropriate:

- Welcome;
- OC and IBU Officials Introduction;
- Election of the Jury of Appeal and competition juries (first meeting);
- OC Technical briefing;
- Weather forecast;
- Miscellaneous;
- IBU/BIU comments
- Adjournment.

1.8.4 Start lists for Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions should be issued to the teams at the end of the meeting, in case a draw is done at the meeting, or published immediately after the draw. Start numbers shall be handed out on the respective competition day.

1.9 Rules for Non-Competing Persons

1.9.1 General

Unfair assistance or assistance not allowed by these rules to competitors during a competition is prohibited.

1.9.2 Specific Rules

1.9.2.1 On the Shooting Range

a. Unless otherwise specified, each NF is allowed to have as many coaches on the range as they have athletes entered in the competition. If the NF has only one competitor entered in the competition, the NF may have two coaches.

b. During the competition, it is forbidden for any person to give competitors any acoustic or visual information or advice, or to pass on any information to competitors by way of radio or any other communication method on the range, including 10 m to the left and right of the range. The forbidden area at the shooting range will be marked by clearly visible markings and named "Silent Zone". It is forbidden to pass any information from the shooting butts to the coaches and/or competitors during zeroing and/or the competition. These bans do not apply to the general expressions of applause or disappointment by the spectators.

1.9.2.2 On the Course

Non-competing persons are permitted to run for up to 70 m beside competitors to give them competition information or to offer them beverages. Touching competitors in such a way as to assist their propulsion or to obstruct competitors is forbidden. Assistance to competitors to change the glide performance of their skis is prohibited during the competition. In the general stadium area running beside competitors is forbidden. Additional coaching and/or no-coaching zones may be established on the course by the RD responsible for the event.

1.9.3 Event Behavior

Spectators and other persons must be clearly informed of these rules by the official announcer before the beginning of the competition and warned that a violation of these rules, or any behavior that disrupts the event, may lead to spectators and other persons being removed from the venue by the Organizing Committee.

2. ORGANIZATION BODIES AND APPOINTMENTS

2.1 General

The following organizations and persons are established, elected or appointed to organize, conduct and control biathlon events and competitions:

- Organizing committee;
- Jury of Appeal (OWG, WCH, WC, OECH, JWCH);
- Women's and men's competition juries;
- RD/TD(s) and IRs;
- IBU EB representative (if applicable);
- IBU medical delegate (if applicable).

2.2 The Organizing Committee

The right to host an event or competition is awarded to NFs as host of the event. The NF must establish an organizing committee (OC) to organize and conduct the event or competition by these rules and the applicable event rules, and it will follow the directives provided in the OC Guidelines about all aspects of hosting an event. In order to be eligible to host an IBU event or competition, NFs must present a site holding a valid IBU site license for the facility for the appropriate event.

2.2.1 Information Bulletins and Invitations

The OC of an IBU event must send the information bulletins and/or the invitation for the event to all IBU NFs by the deadlines stipulated in the event rules, by post, fax, in electronic form by e-mail and/or by placement on a website with notification by e-mail. In general, there are two different timelines for the transmission of invitations:

- WCH (Winter), JWCH – September 1st prior to the event;
- All other IBU Events – 3 months prior to the event.

Exceptions may be made for Regional and Continental events.

The contents of invitations and bulletins are stipulated in the OC Guidelines. Information bulletins and invitations must be approved by the RD/TD.

2.2.2 Medical Services

The organizing committee must appoint an on-venue doctor who will be primarily responsible for the medical care for athletes, coaches, team staff and national federations' officials. Moreover, the on-venue doctor must inform attending team physicians about the local situation and local medical care concept.

The on-venue doctor must confirm, in coordination with the ambulance service and the IBU Race Director and/or Technical Delegate, that the necessary emergency medical equipment and facilities are in place, ready for use, before the training/competition starts.

2.2.3 Insurances

The OC must conclude liability insurance covering both the committee itself and all the OC members. The IBU will in turn provide its employees and the officials (TDs, IBU Referees etc.) it deploys with liability insurance covering the duration of their deployments working for the IBU.

The organizing committee must be in possession of a statement of coverage issued by a recognized insurance company no later than the day before the official arrival day. The statement must be able to be shown to the TD upon request. The insurance must cover sums of at least EUR 5 million.

2.3 The Competition Jury

2.3.1 General

A Competition Jury will be established at all biathlon events to act as the authority on all matters related to the event that are not specifically designated to be under the jurisdiction of other IBU organs. The Competition Jury will be established and operate in accordance with these rules. Generally, a separate Competition Jury will be established at men's and women's competitions. However, the TD may also form a joint Competition Jury (e.g. youth men and youth women; youth and junior men, youth and junior women) as needed. The Competition Jury will decide on issues concerning the event, the competitions and related arrangements, and set conditions to ensure fairness and correct procedures. The Competition Jury will impose penalties for rule violations reported by the RD/TDs, IRs, competition officials and Competition Jury members, as well as imposing penalties and disciplinary measures on its own. Additionally, the Competition Jury will award time adjustments and rule on competition situations not stipulated in these rules or other authoritative IBU publications. The Competition Jury will also review and decide on all protests submitted to it. The procedures of the Competition Jury will be governed by Art. 9.4, Art. 10 and Art.11 of the IBU Event and Competition Rules as well as Annex B Chapter 1.

2.3.1.1 Time of Election

The competition juries to be established for an event must be elected before the first official training. The competition juries will remain competent throughout the event; however, changes of elected members may be made by election for pressing reasons.

2.3.1.2 Chair

The chairperson of the Competition Jury will be the TD.

2.3.2 Competition Jury Line-Up

At all IBU events except Continental Championships, Continental Cups, and Regional Cups, the Competition Jury will consist of five members as follows:

a. the IBU TD as chairperson;

b. the Course Referee or one Referee assigned by the IBU;

c. the Competition Chief;

d. Two team officials elected by the team captains from two different NFs.

The RD may be present at all meetings but will not have the right to vote.

2.3.2.1 Only one person from one and the same NF may be a member of a Competition Jury at the OWG and all IBU events except CCH and CC.

2.3.2.2 At other international competitions, the composition of the Competition Jury will be decided by the OC and the team captains of the participating federations.

2.3.3 Election of Competition Jury Members

Election of the competition juries will be conducted by the TD during the team captains' meeting. Candidates may be nominated by the TD or team captains. If there are the same numbers of candidates as open Competition Jury positions, no vote will be necessary and the candidates will become Competition Jury members by consensus. If there are more candidates than open Competition Jury positions, the team captains must take a vote. Only one vote will be allowed per NF. A simple majority will elect a Competition Jury member. If no simple majority is obtained by any candidate, the person with the least votes will be removed as a candidate and the vote will be repeated for the remaining candidates until the Competition Jury members have been elected.

2.3.4 Competition Jury Meetings and Decisions

The Competition Jury must be able to convene within a minimum of time whenever a meeting is required, as directed by the Competition Jury chairperson, and must remain readily available for Competition Jury duties for 15 minutes after the unofficial results have been published. Specific meeting times are detailed in Annex B to these rules. Decisions of the Competition Jury will normally be made with all members present. However, in exceptional cases the Competition Jury will be competent to pass a resolution if at least three members are present. The Competition Jury chair will only vote in case of a tie vote. Decisions will be made by each member voting on the issue and a simple majority will decide.

2.3.5 Duties of and Procedure for the Competition Jury

A detailed list of duties of the Competition Jury is given in Annex B to these rules.

2.3.6 Appeals against Competition Jury Decisions

An appeal may be made within 15 minutes after the final results have been posted, including penalties and disciplinary measures imposed by the Competition Jury. Such appeal may be lodged at events where a Jury of Appeal has been established: OWG, WCH, WC, OECH and JWCH. Appeals may not be made to decisions regarding delay or postponement; here the Competition Jury is the final authoritative body.

In any other events no appeal can be lodged after the final results have been posted.

The appeal must be made to the Jury of Appeal, and be put forward in accordance with Art. 11 of the IBU Event and Competition Rules.

2.4 Jury of Appeal

2.4.1 The Jury of Appeal consists of five members and is newly constituted for each event listed in ECR 2.3.6.

The chair will be held by the member of the IBU Executive Board who has been appointed by the Executive Board to officially represent the IBU at the event (the Executive Board appoints members to represent the IBU at selected IBU events). The other members of the Jury of Appeal must also be members of the Executive Board, as long as there are enough present at the event. At competitions where there are not enough Executive Board members available, all the other members must be team captains and/or coaches of the teams participating in the team captains' meeting.

2.4.2 The four non-chairing members of the Jury of Appeal will be elected from among the Executive Board members present, or from among the team captains and coaches of the teams participating in the team captains meeting not later than on the day of the team captains meeting, and before the Competition Jury is selected. The chairperson will chair the election of the Jury of Appeal. The members of the Jury of Appeal must not be competition officials or members of the Competition Jury at the same time. For the election, each member federation participating in the event in question may only cast one vote.

2.4.3 In matters presented to the Jury of Appeal that concern a country of which the chairperson or a member of the Jury of Appeal is a citizen, or for which they work, such members will be considered conflicted and will not have the right to vote. If the chairperson is considered conflicted, another member of the IBU Executive Board will handle the matter in question or, if no other member of the Executive Board is present, the oldest member of the Jury of Appeal will take the chair.

2.4.4 Appeal Proceedings for the Jury of Appeal

A detailed summary of appeal proceedings for the Jury of Appeal is given in Annex B to these rules.

2.5 Race Directors

2.5.1 The Race Directors are officials appointed by the IBU.

2.5.2 The RD will conduct the necessary inspections and meetings with the OC to ensure proper preparations, or delegate this responsibility to the TD.

2.5.3 The RD WC will be the RD at the OWG.

2.6 Technical Delegates

2.6.1 General Regulations

TDs will be appointed by the IBU TC and will work under the guidance of the RD. In the absence of the RD, the TD will assume the RD's duties.

2.6.2 Appointment of TDs

TDs will be appointed by the IBU TC from among its members or from the TD group at least three years prior to OWG, two years prior to WCH and in the season before for all other IBU events, and may not be from the host NF. However, TDs for CCH, CC and RC events may be IBU IRs from the host NF, except at OECH/JOECH. Two TDs will be appointed for the OWG, one as an assistant TD. For all other events, one TD will be appointed.

2.6.2.1 The TD will be the chairperson of the Competition Jury or juries for the event for which he has been appointed. At OWG, the assistant TD will be a member of both the men's and women's competition juries.

2.6.2.2 TD's functions only apply for the event for which they have been appointed.

2.6.3 Tasks and Duties of TDs

The TD must arrive at the event site in sufficient time before the event and must perform all the necessary functions required by these rules and the circumstances at the venue before, during and after the event. The TD will be responsible for directing the IRs during the event. Detailed tasks and duties of TDs are given in Annex B to these rules.

2.6.4 TD Expenses

The exact time frame of the TD´s duty is set by the IBU. OCs of IBU events and competitions are responsible for paying the TDs' accommodation, board and transport (venue/airport, etc.) expenses during the time frame mentioned above. The IBU is to cover the TD's travel costs and his/her daily allowances as stipulated by the IBU regulations in force at the time.

2.7 IBU Referees (IBU Rs)

2.7.1 General Regulations

IBU Referees are persons who are appointed by the IBU TC to officiate at IBU events. They are responsible for the correct performance of duties and tasks related to their area of responsibility, in cooperation with the competition committee. In addition, IBU Rs will be required to direct, advise and assist other competition officials in their duties, and to intervene to prevent mistakes from being made. The IBU Rs at an event will be subordinate to the TD, report to him on the performance of their duties and must follow his directions.

2.7.2 Appointment of IBU Referees

IBU Referees appointed by the TC for the OWG, WCH, JWCH, OECH, WC, IBU Cup and IBU Junior Cup must hold a valid TD license. IBU Rs for other events may be appointed by the respective NF or OC and must also hold a valid IR license.

At OWG, WCH, JWCH, OECH, WC, IBU Cup and IBU Junior Cup, all appointed IBU Referees must be from outside the host country and members of the TD Group. At CCH and CC, all IBU Referees may be from the host country. However, exceptions may be permitted by the TC provided the person has held a valid IR license for at least four years.

2.7.3 IBU Referee Functions at Competitions

The functional areas where IBU Referees will be appointed at competitions will be:

- start/finish;
- shooting range;
- course;
- material control.

2.7.4 Numbers of IBU Referees for Events

The following numbers of IBU Referees will be appointed for events:

a. OWG 8 (all appointed by the IBU);
b. WCH 4 (all appointed by the IBU);
c. JWCH 4 (all appointed by the IBU);
d. WC 4 (all appointed by the IBU);
e. IBU Cup, SB WCH 4 (all appointed by IBU);
f. OECH 4 (all appointed by the IBU);
g. CCH 4 (all appointed by NF);
h. CC 4 (all appointed by NF);
i. IBU Junior Cup/JOECH 4 (all appointed by IBU).

2.7.5 IBU Referees Tasks and Duties

Detailed tasks and duties of IBU Rs (IRs) are given in Annex B to these rules.

2.7.6 IBU Referees Expenses

The exact time frame of the IBU Referees duties is set by the IBU. OCs of IBU events and competitions are responsible for paying the IBU Referees' accommodation, board and transport (venue/airport, etc.) expenses during the time frame mentioned above. The IBU is to cover the IBU Referees' travel costs and his/her daily allowances as stipulated by the IBU regulations in force at the time.

3. COMPETITION VENUES AND FACILITIES

3.1 General

The competition venue is the site on which biathlon competitions and training are conducted, and consists of the stadium area, courses and the associated technical and spectator areas. Located in the stadium area are the start/finish areas, shooting range, penalty loop, relay hand-over zone and spectator areas. The technical areas are near the stadium and consist of the ski test area (where still existing), team waxing huts, team lounge, athlete changing area, and parking spaces, as well as the buildings and offices necessary for the OC. The venue must be technically suitable, according to these rules, to allow all the types of biathlon competitions to be held, and must offer the best possible viewing of the competitions to spectators, and fulfill all the requirements of TV coverage. Venues that are candidates for hosting the WCH and WC must have an IBU A license, and venues for the JWCH, OECH, IBU Cup and SB WCH events must have at least an IBU B license. Venues for the OWG must acquire an IBU A license.

3.1.1 IBU Licenses

3.1.1.1 All competition venues require an IBU license to host an IBU event (except the IBU Junior Cup and Continental/Regional Events).

3.1.1.2 The Executive Board sets the criteria for the issue of IBU licenses. It may issue a new IBU license upon written request from the member federation wishing to apply to host an IBU event at the venue in their country if the criteria stipulated in the IBU License documents are met. Such documents can be downloaded in their current version from www.biathlonworld.com

3.1.1.3 The venue must have obtained a valid IBU license before the start of the application/bidding process. For WCH applications, the A license must be valid at least until the end of the season in which the WCH is hosted. Exceptions may be accepted in case the IBU does not have any concerns that such license could be prolonged without major problems before the season in which the WCH will be hosted.

3.1.2 General Requirements

The start and finish areas, shooting range, penalty loop and relay hand-over zone must be located on level ground and close together to provide the majority of the spectators with a good view of competition activities. These areas and critical parts of the course must be fenced off in order to prevent competitors from being impeded or going astray, and to prevent access by unauthorized persons. However, the height and extent of the fencing must be minimized as much as possible to avoid interference with TV coverage. There must be sufficient space for competitors and competition officials to conduct their required activities and adequate room for team support staff, press, photographers and spectators, and enough space for TV camera crews and their broadcasting facilities without the broadcasting interfering with the competition. Diagrams of examples of facility layouts are given in the OC Guidelines.

3.1.2.1 Maximum Distance and Altitude Difference

The competition venue for the OWG and WCH will be no more than 30 km or 30 minutes' travel and should not be more than +/- 300 m in altitude from the teams' living accommodation, unless otherwise approved by the IBU EB.

3.1.2.2 Competition Office

A competition office or sub-office must be located in or near the stadium area. The office must be open during regular hours during the entire event, beginning on the arrival day, and will be the official interface between teams and the organizing committee. Teams must be able to submit entries for competitions at the office and information about the event and competitions must be available in the office. A mailbox for each participating team must be provided in the office or close to it.

3.1.2.3 Electronic Information Board

At OWG, WCH, JWCH, OECH and WC there must be an electronic information board with at least six lines, in the stadium area, in a location as approved in the licensing process or by the RD.

In addition, at OWG, WCH and WC there must be electronic (LED or similar) boards on the shooting range roof (or above) over the full width of the range to display:

- Lane number
- Bib number
- Athlete name and country
- Target graphic
- Hit/miss live indication
- Number of shots and reserve round for relay

When possible, this display can be used also for other purposes, but should in general be operated from the data-/timing-room. All technical details and/or exceptions shall be discussed with the respective RD.

3.1.2.4 Artificial Lighting

IBU competitions may be held under artificial lighting if the lighting meets the following standards:

- Lighting conditions must be the same for all competitors;
- A minimum of approximately 1000 lux on the targets incl. zeroing paper targets without any shadows and with light equally spread over all targets. This requirement applies for all licensed venues;
- App. 300 lux across the entire length of the course and stadium, without any dark areas (when a venue has lights) and app. 600-800 lux on the finish line;
- If TV is involved, app. 900-1200 lux are required on the finish line, targets (light equally spread over all targets), on zeroing paper targets without any shadows, as well as in stadium and on the courses. No dark areas shall appear in all the mentioned areas. For further specification TV needs to be consulted.

All measurements are to be done by placing the measuring device on the ground, pointing upwards.

3.2 Start and Warm-Up Areas

3.2.1 General

The start area for all competitions must be level with the snow well packed and smoothly groomed, and should be visible to spectators. The start must be placed at right angles to the skiing direction and must be marked with a red line sunken into the snow, except where an electronic start gate is in use. The area must be well fenced-off and must be suitable to cope with the traffic flow of competitors, team support staff and officials without problems. There must be a warmup area immediately adjacent to the start zone for competitors to perform their final, pre-competition warm-up, with enough room to store warm-up clothing, an area for checking and/or storing skis (with ski racks holding the required number of skies for the competition) and space for rifle racks holding a minimum of 140 rifles, or as directed by the RD/TD.

3.2.2 Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification Competition Start Areas

The start area for Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions must be approximately 5-8 m long and a minimum of 1.5 m wide and must be separated from the warm-up area by a fence with an opening to allow controlled access to the area.

3.2.3 Pursuit Competition Start Area

The start area for the Pursuit competition must have 4 start lanes. The start lanes must be numbered from the competitors' right to left, 1.5-2 m wide and sufficiently long to hold the required number of competitors. A common start line must cross the end of the start lanes. The lanes must be parallel to each other and must be clearly separated. There must be a passage next to start lanes (left or right) that allows access

across the start line in the case of late starts. This lane must be supervised by a start official. At the OWG, WCH, JWCH, WC, OECH, IBU Cup, and Junior IBU Cup, a transponder timing point must be installed 1.5-2 m after the start line with a video camera installed to capture the relative start time of each competitor in case of an early start.

3.2.3.1 Pursuit Start Boards

Separate boards, showing the start numbers and start times for each lane in large print easily readable by competitors and officials, must be positioned in front of the applicable start lanes and at the start line, on the competitor's left such that the start line can be easily seen from the front for control of each starter.

3.2.4 Relay, Group, Mass Start and Super Sprint Final Competition Start Area

The start area must be laid out with three corridors 3 m wide groomed flat, with 3 m of space between each competitor.

3.2.4.1 Start Position Markings and Boards – Relay, Group, Mass Start and Super Sprint Final Competition

The start positions must be marked with nylon or natural markers. There must be the same number of markers as the number of starters in the competition. The size of the start number boards must be at least 15 x 15 cm. Normally, the number boards must be placed on the right of each line of starters, unless specified differently by the RD/TD, and the number must be readable from the front and the rear. The numbers on the boards must be at least 10 cm high and must be highly visible to the competitors and TV. The start lanes must be numbered from the competitors' right to left.

3.2.5 Course Information Boards

There must be a board at the entrance to the start area that shows the course map for the competition.

3.2.6 Start Clocks

At the start area for Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, there must be a start clock placed so that it is easily readable from the start line. The display of the clock and the sound signal must be synchronized. For the Pursuit competitions, there must be a start clock on the left and right sides of the start. In addition, there must be a clock in or near the start area that is easily visible to competitors in the area and that displays the correct time of day.

3.2.7 Equipment/Materials Inspection Prior to Start

The equipment/materials inspection prior to the start must be located in close proximity to the start area. Its placement and design must facilitate the smooth, orderly and timely flow of competitors through to the start. The inspection station must have tables and the required equipment and materials to perform the checks.

3.3 Course and Associated Sections

3.3.1 General

The course is the network of ski trails to be used for the competition. It consists of continuously changing flats, climbs and downhill sections. Extremely long and difficult climbs, dangerous descents and monotonous flats are not permitted. Changes in direction of the course must not occur so frequently that a competitor's ski rhythm is seriously disturbed. Detailed course specifications are given under Art. 1.4.10.

3.3.1.1 TV Zones

Zones for TV coverage of the competitions will be established on the course by the RD responsible for the event. The primary purpose of the zones is to ensure the best possible media coverage of the competition and in particular to prevent non-competing persons from obstructing the TV broadcast.

3.3.2 Altitude, Width and Length

The maximum altitude of any part of the course may not be higher than 2.000 m above sea level, unless an exception is specifically authorized by the IBU EB in necessary circumstances. For all IBU events, the course must have a minimum width of 6 m of groomed snow surface for the competitors plus additional space for coaches and TV. In steep sections of the course, the trail must be even wider, up to 8 m. If narrower sections such as bridges or mountain passes are unavoidable, the narrow parts may not be less than 4 m wide for not longer than 50 m. The actual length of the course may not be more than 2% shorter or 5% longer than the length specified for the competition, as measured in the center of the course.

3.3.3 Setting of Tracks

If required, tracks will also be laid in downhill sections as directed by the RD/TD/Course Referee. Tracks must not be set in such a way or in places where they may endanger or hinder competitors. Usually they should be provided at the edge of the competition course, if the snow conditions allow it. RD/TD/Course Referee should agree with OC if tracks will be set in training day.

3.3.4 Safety

The course must be prepared so that a competitor may ski it without undue risk of an accident. To improve the safety of the competitions, the Competition Jury may alter the first loop of a Mass Start, Pursuit or Relay competition, even if this means that the course will not meet the distance or climb requirements.

3.3.5 Grooming

The course must be as level as possible, solidly packed and smoothly groomed. Downhill turns must be banked as necessary. All types of hindrances and obstacles must be cleared from the course, such as stumps, branches, stones and soil. Overhanging or protruding branches must be trimmed so that they do not obstruct or endanger competitors.

3.3.6 Marking

The course must be so clearly marked and defined so that competitors are at no time in doubt as to how to follow the course. This applies especially to descents, trail junctions and other critical points. Clear markings must be placed at such points. Closed sections of the course or junctions must be completely closed with continuous V-boards or fences.

3.3.6.1 Course Sequence Colors

The 1.0 km course must be marked purple, the 1.5 km course orange, the 2 km course must be marked red, the 2.5 km course green, the 3 km course yellow, the 3.3 km course blue and the 4 km course brown. Junctions must be clearly marked with course colors.

3.3.7 Fencing and V-boards

Trails close to each other must be separated by fences or V-boards so that competitors cannot go on the wrong trail. V-boards should be clearly visible, approximately 20 cm high and approximately 1 m long, and made of heavy material that will not be blown over by the wind.

3.3.8 Forerunners

The RD, TD and IBU Referee Course will decide whether to use forerunners or not.

3.3.9 Course Specifications for Competitions

Art. 1.4.10 details the required technical specifications for courses for each type of competition.

3.3.10 Relay Hand-Over Zone

In Relay competitions, there must be a well-marked hand-over zone, 30 m long and 9 m wide, at the end of a straight trail section placed in such a way that incoming competitors will arrive at a controlled speed.

The last 20 m of the trail before the zone must be at least 9 m wide. The hand-over zone must begin at the timing line or at least close to it. The beginning and end of the zone must be marked with a nylon or natural markers, spread over the width of zone at beginning and end, with signs “Hand-over Start” and “Hand-over End” at one side of the zone. The zone must be closed with V-boards or a fence along both sides, with one access gate for controlled entry by starting competitors.

3.3.10.1 The last 50 m of the course before the hand-over zone must allow athletes a comfortable entrance to the zone. The hand-over zone may only be entered by the incoming and outgoing competitors and by the officials responsible for supervising the hand-over zone.

3.3.11 The Penalty Loop

For the Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start and Relay competitions, a penalty loop must be set up immediately after the shooting range – no further than 60 m skiing distance from the right edge of the range to the entrance of the penalty loop. The loop should be an oval trail which is 5-6 m wide and 150 m (+/- 5 m) long/75m (+/- 5m) for SSP and SMR, measured along the inside perimeter of the loop. The opening must be at least 15 m long. The penalty loop must be marked off with V-boards, set up so close together that competitors have no chance of mistaking the entrance/exit.

3.3.11.1 The penalty loop must be located in a level area in such a way that competitors do not have to ski any additional distance between the course and the penalty loop when they have to enter the penalty loop.

3.3.12 Warm-up Course

For all IBU events, there must be a separate course, in close proximity (approximately 300 m) to the start area and with easy access from the team wax cabin area, on which competitors can warm up. The course must have a minimum length of 400 m and must be prepared the same as the competition course, but must not be a part of the competition course.

3.4 Shooting Range

3.4.1 General

The shooting range is where all shooting takes place during a biathlon competition. It must be located in the central area of the stadium and both the targets and the shooting ramp must be visible to the majority of spectators. The range must be flat and level and must be surrounded by adequate safety berms on the sides and behind the targets in accordance with the applicable national safety rules. The shooting range must be set up and placed with strict regard for safety in relation to the trails, stadium and the surrounding area. The shooting direction should generally be northward, with consideration for the light conditions during competitions. Safety baffles that obstruct the visibility of the competition to spectators or TV should be avoided if at all possible. The shooting range must conform to all local laws.

3.4.2 Specifications and Configurations

3.4.2.1 Shooting Distance

The distance between the front edge of the shooting ramp (firing-line) and the line of targets must be 50 m +/- 1 m.

3.4.2.2 Prone and Standing

Looking in the shooting direction, the right half of the range will be for shooting in the prone position and the left half for shooting in the standing position. The division must be clearly indicated to the competitors by signboards. An exception to the right and left configuration is to be made during Pursuit, Mass Start, Super Sprint Final and Relay competitions, when competitors fire from all lanes in both prone and standing positions.

3.4.2.3 Entrance and Exit

During both training and competition, competitors must enter the range from the left and exit on the right side.

3.4.2.4 Levels

The surface of the shooting ramp and the surface on which the targets are situated must be as near the same level as possible. The shooting ramp and the surface on which the targets are placed must be at a higher level than the ground between them by at least 30 cm, and more if required by local snow conditions.

3.4.2.5 Range Area Configuration

At the rear of the range, there must be a fenced-off area of 10 to 12 m width (shooting ramp), measured back from the front edge of the firing line, and extending along the entire back of the range. The area is to be reserved for competitors, officials and members of the juries. However, if authorized by the RD/TD, other persons such as TV camera crews may be allowed in this area. Directly behind that area there must be a second fenced area of at least 2 m in width and at least 30 cm higher than the shooting ramp, reserved for team staff members. This area must be configured so that the team staff members have good visibility of the targets and the shooting ramp area. Behind the coaches area, there must be an area 1.5 m wide, extending the width of the range, reserved primarily for the media.

3.4.3 The Shooting Ramp

The shooting ramp is the area at the rear of the range where the competitors lie or stand to fire. The ramp must be totally solid, even, smooth, and level for the entire area used by competitors during the competition.

3.4.3.1 Shooting Lanes

The shooting ramp is divided into shooting lanes from which one competitor at a time will shoot. Every shooting lane must be at least 2.75 m but not more than 3 m wide. The width of the lanes must be marked on both sides of the shooting ramp from the front edge for a distance of 1.5 m to the rear with a red-colored board sunken into the snow so that it is 2 cm below the snow surface. In case the ramp is built from solid material (such as wood) the red line can be painted or taped on the surface. Both sides of each lane must be marked from the ramp to the targets with five (5) lane dividers (T-posts with signboards max. 20 cm wide by 15 cm high or signboards of the same size fixed on a steel wire), in alternating colors matching the background color of the target numbers that clearly define the lanes but do not interfere with shooting. The first line of lane dividers should begin at 10 m. There must be a minimum distance of 3 -5 m between the outer edge of the left and right lanes and the start of the safety berms they adjoin. This distance must be maintained from the ramp to the targets.

3.4.3.2 Shooting Mats

For shooting in both the prone and standing positions, mats must be placed with the front edge on the firing line and in the middle of the shooting lane. For all IBU events, the mats must be 200 cm x 150 cm and 1 to 2 cm thick, and must be made of synthetic or natural fibers with a non-slip surface. The shooting mats must be marked with a 5 cm-wide line 50 cm from the firing line to help the competitors assume the correct shooting position.

3.4.4 Targets

3.4.4.1 Types of Targets

There are three main kinds of targets used in biathlon – metal, paper and fully electronic targets. Only metal and fully electronic targets are permitted to be used for competition. Only paper targets and fully electronic targets will be used for rifle zeroing. Paper, metal and fully electronic targets may be used for training. Only targets that are in conformity with the IBU Materials Catalogue (Annex A) may be used for IBU competitions. At all IBU competitions, the shooting range must have 30 shooting lanes and targets of

the same type/model. The targets used for OWG, WCH, WC, IBU Cup, JWCH, OECH and all other events with live TV/webcasting coverage must have a remote reset capability (without a rope) and electronic target scoring data.

3.4.4.2 Target Maintenance

Targets must be maintained, set and adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

3.4.4.3 Target Placement

The targets must be set up in a level straight line, parallel to the front edge of the shooting ramp. They must be level in all directions. The targets must be placed so that the target is in the middle of the width of the lane. The targets must not deviate sideways more than 1 degree from the right angle plane of their shooting lanes. The target center must be 80 to 100 cm higher than the surface of the shooting ramp.

3.4.4.4 Target Background

The background behind the targets must be white from the ground level to a min. of 50 cm above the upper edge of the target, including all constructions in this area, and must extend 1 meter to the right of the rightmost T-post lane and 1 meter to the left of the leftmost T-post lane

3.4.5 Numbering and Markings

The shooting lanes and the corresponding target numbers must each have the same number, easily visible, and beginning from the right with number 1. At all IBU events, the shooting lanes must be numbered on the left and right side at the front edge of the shooting ramp. The number signs at the shooting ramp must be placed so that they do not obstruct TV coverage of the shooting competitors. They must be 30 cm high and 20-25 cm wide. The printed number must be located at the bottom of the sign and be 18-20 cm high with the lines of the numbers 2-3 cm in width. The signs must be mounted on a support post 1-2 cm thick and 40 cm high – measured from the snow surface to the bottom of the number sign. The number must be placed not more than 30 cm from the firing line in the direction of the targets. Front and back side should be in same appearance and with matching printed number. The size of the target numbers

must be 40 cm high with a line width of 4 cm, and they must be mounted on a board 45 x 45 cm centered immediately above the targets. Both the target and shooting lane number signs must be in alternating colors, matching the T-post lane markers, or in specific colors, as decided by the IBU.

3.4.5.1 Entrance and Exit Boundaries

At the entrance and exit of the range, 10 m outward from the left and right hand shooting lanes, there must be a clear marking. These markings will indicate the outer edges of the information prohibition zone at the range.

3.4.6 Wind Flags

At competitions and all trainings, wind flags must be installed at the side of every second shooting lane beginning at the right side of lane 1, at 5-8 m from the shooting ramp and 20 m from the target. The flags must be placed so that the top edge of the flag is not exceeding the top of the shooting ramp and the bottom of the targets (including the bottom row of paper targets).

3.4.6.1 Wind Data Collectors

The OC is allowed, but not required, to place wind data collector devices on the range in conjunction with the wind flags. However, any kind of display which could be seen by the competitors is not allowed, and all data collected must be made equally available to participating teams.

3.4.7 Rifle Racks

During competitions, there must be racks for three reserve rifles for each participating team. The racks must be clearly marked with the names of the participating nations or teams. A rifle rack must be provided

for each shooting lane in use for training or zeroing, holding a minimum of seven rifles per lane. The racks must be built to allow skis to pass under them. Before and/or after the range there must be an adequate number of racks for training.

3.4.8 Video Cameras on Range

At all IBU competitions, video cameras must be installed on the shooting range in sufficient number so that the placement and number of cameras totally covers and records all actions of all competitors on the range.

3.5 Finish Area

3.5.1 General

The finish zone begins on the competition trail at the finish line and ends at the finish equipment/materials and clothing inspection point. It must be at least 30 m long and 9 m wide without obstruction. The last 50 m to 75 m before the finish line must be straight and 9 m wide, and divided into three equal lanes with markers that do not interfere with skis. Only officials, finishing competitors and specially authorized TV personnel under the supervision of the Start/Finish IR are permitted in the finish zone. Space must be provided for the finish line timing equipment, installations/markings/advertising and broadcast equipment, such as rail cameras etc., as specified for each IBU Event.

3.5.1.1 The finish line must be marked by a sunken red line in the snow at a right angle to the incoming trail and clearly visible to the competitors and broadcasters' cameras.

3.5.1.2 Sections with marked Corridors

In sections with marked corridors, the competitors should choose a corridor before the first corridor marker. In all competitions, obstruction is not allowed.

Competitors are only allowed to leave the chosen corridor as long as they are not obstructing other athletes (this behavior is defined as deliberately impeding, blocking, charging or pushing any competitor with any part of the body or ski equipment).

3.5.2 Finish Equipment/Materials Inspection

The finish equipment/materials inspection must be located so that finishing competitors flow into it automatically and can pass through it under supervision. This is particularly important for Relay competitions so that finished competitors do not obstruct the outgoing trail from the hand-over zone. The finish zone fencing and placement must be set up so that competitors are automatically led into, and have no way of evading the finish equipment/materials inspection.

3.5.3 Media Area

Adjacent to the finish zone and equipment inspection area, a fenced-off area (mixed zone) has to be established for TV company representatives, journalists and photographers to have close contact with the competitors for interviews and pictures after they finish.

3.5.4 Refreshment Point

There must be a refreshment point after the finish zone, the location of which must be agreed with the RD/TD, for serving drinks and providing paper tissues and similar necessary services to competitors after they finish. Any beverages or foodstuffs provided there must be protected against the introduction of any prohibited substances.

3.5.5 Clothing Change Shelter

Adjacent to the finish zone, there must be a shelter providing privacy where competitors can change their clothing. The size of this shelter must be approximately 2 x 3 m.

3.5.6 Finish Exit Zone

After the mixed zone, there must be an area where competitors can meet their team staff and service firms, and retrieve their clothing and materials/equipment. There must be rifle racks holding at least 70 rifles.

3.6 Team Waxing Cabins and Team Parking Areas

In or very near the stadium area, there must be a sufficient number of permanent buildings or good quality temporary facilities in which teams may store materials/equipment and wax skis. One cabin/room unit is calculated at approximately 15 m2. The cabins/rooms must be provided with lights, electric power outlets and adequate ventilation for removing wax fumes, and must be warmed to at least 18 degrees Celsius.

Each NF with a total number of competitors entered to start (men's and women's classes together) of four to nine must have its own wax cabin, whilst NFs with a total of ten or more competitors entered to start must be given two wax cabins or one very large cabin.

Smaller teams may have to share a cabin if work-space and security regulations permit. The cabins should be equipped with locking doors and teams are to be issued with corresponding keys. If the entrances cannot be locked, the OC must provide security for the cabins. Teams, using wax trucks for waxing, should not be allocated with wax cabin/room. Parking space for team vehicles and ski preparation trucks must be provided within a reasonable distance of the cabins.

3.7 Competitor Changing Rooms

Rooms or separate cabins must be provided near the waxing cabins as changing areas for the competitors. One cabin/room unit is calculated at approximately 15 m2. This can be a part of the stadium building, a separate warming shelter or a tent. At WCH and WC events, teams with twelve or more athletes entered to start, should receive two changing cabins/rooms. Smaller teams may have to share a cabin/room.

4. COMPETITION EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING FOR EVENTS

4.1 General

The term "competition materials/equipment and clothing" includes all of the materials, equipment, competition gear and clothing that the competitor uses during an event, including advertising. The definitions and specifications of competition materials/equipment and clothing, and advertising, are stipulated in the IBU Materials Catalogue (Annex A) and the IBU Advertising Rules.

4.2 Inspections of Equipment/Materials and Clothing

4.2.1 Preliminary Control

Competitors' materials/equipment and clothing must be inspected before the start and after the finish of a competition. Additionally, a preliminary check of such materials/equipment and clothing is to be provided well in advance of a competition, usually before the first official training, to ensure that no problems occur.

All registered competitors must have their equipment controlled when they first arrive for an IBU event series or after making any changes to their materials/equipment or clothing. After a competitor's rifle has been checked and approved, an IBU control sticker will be attached to the rifle stock.

No equipment, materials or clothing may be used at an IBU event unless they are according to the current Event and Competition Rules, as well as the IBU Advertising Rules, and have been approved by the IBU, e.g. RD, TD or IBU R Material Control.

4.2.2 Pre-Start Materials/Equipment and Clothing Inspection

To facilitate the inspection, the materials/equipment and clothing checkpoint must be opened at least 40 minutes before the start of the zeroing and remain open until 20 minutes before zeroing ends. The competitors will have the right to have their materials/equipment checked during this time. The early or late opening of the pre-start equipment inspection will be permitted when necessary. Competitors (or team staff) must deliver the race skis either for the Flour test or for the common waxing, according to the provisions and at the time mentioned in the corresponding protocol. This applies for all kind of competitions.

Competitors are responsible for the time that it takes to make the inspection/markings, even if this results in a late start. Competitors whose materials, equipment or clothing do not conform to IBU regulations will not be authorized to pass through the start materials/equipment and clothing inspection until the discrepancies have been corrected. Skis can be changed/replaced according to the procedures of the corresponding protocol. Equipment, rifles, materials and clothing that have been inspected at pre-start equipment inspection must not be modified in any way prohibited by these rules or the IBU Materials Catalogue. In no case does the foregoing relieve competitors of their responsibility to abide by Art. 1.5.2. During that inspection rifles shall not carry any full magazines nor any reserve bullets at the stock.

4.2.2.1 Specific Checks at Pre-Start Equipment Inspection

The following checks are to be made:

a. That competitors are wearing their start number and thigh numbers;

b. The rifle will then be safety-checked to confirm it does not contain a cartridge in the chamber and no magazine is inserted or appears to be inserted in the magazine well; at the inspection the rifle may not carry full magazines nor reserve bullets on the rifle stock;

c. The weight, trigger resistance, dimensions and shape of the rifle, and the advertising on it will be checked for correctness. The serial number will be recorded on a checklist so that the rifle can be verified at the finish;

d. Skis and poles will be checked for correctness; especially the skis will be checked with regards to not having been prepared with prohibited materials (specified in Annex A). Those checks will be conducted in accordance with the current test protocol which will be published for each season;

e. Clothing and other materials/equipment will be inspected for correctness, including advertising.

4.2.2.2 Ski Marking, Storage and Hand-out

Competition skis will be marked and stored at the inspection checkpoint inaccessible for competitors and team staff to prevent unauthorized changes before the competition. The skis will be handed out to the competitors when entering the start area.

4.2.2.3 Delays Before Start

Competitors are themselves responsible if they are delayed in starting because they have reported late to the equipment/ski inspection area, or because of corrections that have to be made to their clothing or equipment. The OC must provide sufficient staff to ensure prompt equipment inspections and thus prevent competitors who have reported in time from starting late.

4.2.2.4 Final Check Before Start

Two minutes prior to the start, a check will be made of the competitor by the starter's assistant(s) in order to ensure the following:

a. That the competitor is wearing a start number and thigh numbers;

b. That the rifle is properly marked (IBU control sticker in acc. with Art. 4.2.1) and the skis are properly marked;

c. That advertising regulations are not being violated;

d. That by opening the action of the rifle, that there is no round in the chamber and no magazine is inserted or appears to be inserted in the magazine well. The safety marker must be inserted instead, and removed by the official;

e. That the competitor has transponders if they are in use;

f. That the competitor is not in possession of any wireless communication/listening device;

g. That the competitor has enough magazines to complete the competition. Magazines may be spotchecked to ensure they contain only five rounds that can be loaded directly from the magazine.

However, this check does not relieve competitors of their responsibility to abide by Art. 1.5.2.

4.2.3 Finish Inspection

After arriving at the finish, and after the hand-over zone in the Relay competition, a check will be made to confirm the following:

a. That the rifle does not contain live ammunition in the chamber or inserted magazine;

b. That competitors have finished with their marked rifle (IBU control sticker), with their marked skis and poles being in accordance with the Materials Catalogue (Exception: Art. 7.3.1 ECR); tests may be conducted as authorized by RD/TD/IBU Referee; in case of skis being tested as non-compliant in the finish, this result will be handled in accordance with the current test protocol;

c. That competitors have finished with their marked rifle being in accordance with the Materials Catalogue and that the rifle trigger resistance is at least 0.5 kg (may be conducted as a spot check, if authorized by the RD/TD/IBU Referee);

d. That the advertising regulations have not been violated.

All ammunition on the stock and in other magazines will be removed at this inspection and the safety marker needs to be inserted.

5. TRAINING AND ZEROING

5.1 General

Competitors and team staff must be provided the opportunity and the facilities to prepare for the competitions. For that purpose, the OC must set official training times, provide ski testing facilities, and offer the opportunity for competitors to zero rifles and warm-up prior to the competition.

5.1.1 Exceptions

In extraordinary circumstances, the Competition Jury may close the entire facility or limit training on the facility to certain parts or to specific times.

5.1.2 Rights for Training and Training Bibs

Competitors who have registered for an IBU event may use the course during the official training. Men or women may not participate in official training and zeroing of the respective another sex; however, the RD/TD is authorized to permit mixed training on competition days when this is in the best interest of the competitors and the OCs. The training bibs assigned by the IBU, if in use at the event, must be worn only by the assigned competitors during all training, and by the assigned team staff and service firm personnel skiing on the course at any time during the event. At IBU events bibs may not be transferred to other persons.

5.2 Types of Training

At all biathlon events, OC should provide “Official training” and “Training”.

5.2.1 Official Training

At all IBU events, the competition facility and courses must be open for inspection and official training at least once before the first competition. The facilities and courses must be prepared as for the competition and the training must be held at the same time of day as the competition itself, if at all possible. Each subsequent competition should also be preceded by the official training unless it is not possible in the event program or due to other circumstances. At all IBU events, ranges will be allocated for official training according to Art. 5.2.4 unless specifically changed by the RD/TD. At all other events, a simple draw should be done.

After 20 minutes, the first row of paper targets will be changed and metal and paper targets will be used. Athletes are now free to choose any available shooting lane they wish until the end of the training period; however, the paper targets will be reserved for the assigned NF(s) for a further 25 minutes. When the metal targets are opened for Mass Start, Relays and Pursuit official training, the odd-numbered shooting lanes will be set to prone and the even-numbered lanes will be set to standing.

5.2.2 Training

Training is the time that the OC allows for training on the facility in addition to the official training, when the facility does not have to be prepared as for the competition. OCs should allow as much time as possible in the event program for training. At all IBU events, ranges will be allocated for training according to Art. 5.2.4 unless specifically changed by the RD/TD. At all other events, a simple draw should be done.

After 20 minutes, the first row of paper targets will be changed, and metal and paper targets will be used. Athletes are now free to choose any available shooting lane they wish until the end of the training period; however, the paper targets will be reserved for the assigned NF(s) for a further 25 minutes. When the metal targets are opened for Mass Start, Relays and Pursuit training, the odd-numbered shooting lanes will be set to prone, and the even-numbered lanes will be set to standing.

5.2.3 Additional (Unscheduled) Training

Any additional training must be offered equally for all teams. Such additional training must be requested at IBU (RD) in writing. Allocation of the shooting lanes and time when metal targets will be open should be determined by RD/TD.

5.2.4 Allocation of Zeroing Lanes for Official Training and Training

5.2.4.1 At the OWG, WCH and WC events shooting lanes will be allocated as follows:

a) for Sprint, Individual and Super Sprint Qualification, shooting lanes 1-5 will be allocated by a random draw among the top 5 participating NFs, and shooting lanes 6-10 allocated among the next five participating NFs, and so on with the next five targets drawn for the next five ranked NFs until all are allocated. The previous year's WC Nations Cup score will apply for the first event in the new season, thereafter the current Nations Cup score will apply. In case a nation does not participate in the first event of a season, that NF will be drawn in its group of nations at the second event of the season according to the previous season's NC ranking.

b) for Relay, Mixed Relay and Single Mixed Relay, shooting lanes will be allocated based on the current standings in the WC Relay score, or the sum of the current season's Mixed Relay scores for the Mixed Relay, or the sum of the current season's Single Mixed Relay scores for the Single Mixed Relay – with the top ranking team receiving number 1, the second number 2, and so on. If a team or number is missing, all teams below it will move up in number. In the first WC Relay, Mixed Relay or Single Mixed Relay of the season, the previous year's respective final Relay standings will be used. Teams without a relay team may participate at official training and training, their shooting lanes will be allocated after all relay teams from respective standing have been allocated (by random draw).

c) for all other official training and training shooting lanes will be allocated by the RD/TD.

5.2.4.2 For the IBU Cup/OECH, allocation will be made in the same principle as in Art. 5.2.4.1 for Sprint, Individual and Super Sprint Qualification: the IBU Cup Nations Cup score will be used. For the Junior Cup, a random draw will be made. For the JWCH, the last season's JWCH Nations ranking according to Art. 12.9 will apply.

For all other official training and training shooting lanes will be allocated by the RD/TD.

5.2.4.3 When a team has more than eight competitors, an additional zeroing lane may be allocated, if available.

5.3 Rifle Zeroing

5.3.1 Zeroing Time

Prior to the start of a competition, competitors must be given the opportunity to zero their rifles on paper targets at the shooting range for a period of 45 minutes, which must begin one hour before and end no later than 5 minutes before the first start. At IBU events, the zeroing time for the Pursuit, Mass Start and Relay competitions is 30 minutes long and must end 15 minutes before the start, without any paper target change. If necessary, men and women may both zero prior to the first competition, but this must be done separately.

Prior to the start of the Super Sprint Final competition, competitors must be given the opportunity to zero their rifles on the range for a period of 15 minutes; zeroing must begin at least 25 minutes before and end no later than 10 minutes before the first start.

5.3.2 Paper targets used for zeroing must be placed at the same level and the same distance (tolerance max. + 20 cm) from the firing lane as the competition targets. When two rows of paper targets are placed, the second row must be below or above the level of the competition targets. If the paper targets have to be changed during zeroing, they will be changed after 20 minutes and only the first row of paper targets will be

changed. The time required for the change will not be deducted from the time allocated for zeroing. Metal targets may not be used for zeroing.

5.3.3 Allocation of Zeroing Lanes

At Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, each team should be allocated one zeroing lane on the range. Lanes will be allocated by a random draw conducted under the supervision of the RD/TD. At Relay competitions, the team zeroing lane is to be the same as the start number. At Mass Start and Super Sprint Final competitions, the zeroing lane will be allocated according to the start list, but the competitors will be free to zero from any lane allocated to a member of their NF. At Pursuit and Mass Start 60 competitions, the shooting lane numbers will be allocated according to the placement of the best-ranked competitor in each team, but if a NF has more than four competitors starting, it will be allocated two adjoining zeroing lanes. One reserve member of each team will be permitted to zero before each competition, including the reserve Relay team member, except for Pursuit and Mass Start competitions.

5.3.3.1 At the OWG, WCH and WC events, shooting lanes 1-5 will be allocated by a random draw among the top 5 participating NFs, and shooting lanes 6-10 allocated among the next five participating NFs, and so on with the next five targets drawn for the next five ranked NFs until all are drawn. The previous year's WC Nations Cup score will apply for the first event in the new season, thereafter the current Nations Cup score will apply. In case a nation does not participate in the first event of a season, that NF will be drawn in its group of nations at the second event of the season according to the previous season's NC ranking. Likewise for the IBU Cup/OECH: the IBU Cup Nations Cup score will be used. For the Junior Cup, a random draw will be made. For the JWCH, the last season's JWCH Nations ranking according to Art. 12.9 will apply.

5.4 Use of the Course before the Start

At all IBU events, the course will be open for entered competitors and team staff to warm up and test skis starting not earlier than three hours (three and a half hours for events where fluor testing is applied) before the start and ending five minutes before the start, unless otherwise decided by the jury. All competitors on the course must wear their start numbers (or training bibs in the case of reserve athletes.) Team staff must wear their assigned bibs when skiing on the course, if provided. From five minutes before the start, skiing on the course is forbidden, but team members may walk on the edge of the course.

5.5 Ski Testing on the Competition Course

The TD, in coordination with the RD, may authorize the use of electronic ski testing devices on the competition course in areas of sufficient course width and configuration. If electronic ski testing devices are allowed, they must be removed from the course at least five minutes before the start.

6. START REGULATIONS

6.1 Start Types and Intervals

6.1.1 General

There are four types of starts: single, pursuit, group and simultaneous. At all IBU events, the following regulations will apply:

6.1.2 Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification Competitions

Competitors will be started individually at all Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, normally with 30 seconds (Sprint and Individual) and 15 seconds (Super Sprint Qualification) intervals. However, shorter or longer intervals will be permitted if it is best for the competition. At Sprint competitions, group starts can be used. The RD/TD will decide which start type and start interval is the best for the circumstances, in consultation with the OC.

6.1.3 Pursuit Competitions

No standard start interval is used in Pursuit competitions. Competitors must start at the exact time listed in the start list as their start time, which is the length of time they finished behind the winner of the qualifying competition, rounded to the nearest second.

6.1.4 Mass Start and Super Sprint Final Competitions

In Mass Start and Super Sprint Final competitions, the competitors all start together in one single simultaneous start.

6.1.5 All Relay Competitions

In all Relay competitions, the first competitors of each team all start simultaneously. Subsequent starts by other team members are done by the incoming team member tagging the next team member in the relay hand-over zone.

6.2 Starting Positions and Starts

6.2.1 Single Start with Electronic Timing

Competitors must stand as close to the gate as possible and must pass through the gate at their starting time.

6.2.2 Single Start with Manual Timing

If only manual timing is used, competitors must stand with both feet completely behind the start line and must cross the line at their starting time.

6.2.3 Pursuit Start

Competitors must arrive in the start area at least two minutes before the start for placement into their start lanes. They must line up sequentially in their assigned start lanes. Competitors themselves are responsible for starting and must start at their assigned start time from their assigned lane. At the start time the athlete needs to still be behind or on the start line with at least one foot. An analysis of each start will be done by an official.

6.2.4 All Relay Starts

In all Relay competitions, the first starters must stand in their assigned start position with both feet beside the marking in their start row, or beside their start position if no other marking is there. The competitors must start when the designated start signal is given. Subsequent members of a Relay team must stand in the hand-over zone, according to the current competition standing, and must start when tagged by the incoming team member.

6.2.5 Group Start

In group starts, the competitor with the lowest start number of that group will take position 1, the second lowest position 2, etc. They must stand as for the Relay simultaneous start and must start when the designated signal is given. This process will be repeated for each group.

6.2.6 Mass Start Competition Start

The Mass Start competitions start in the same way as the Relay simultaneous start.

6.2.7 Super Sprint Competition Start

Super Sprint Qualifications start in the same way as other single starts. Super Sprint Finals start in the same way as Mass Start competition (same way as for the first starters in Relay simultaneous start).

6.3 Start Signals

6.3.1 Single Starts – Electronic Timing

The start command will be given by the sound of the start clock – a loud beep, and by the visual time on the start clock. The starter must not touch the competitor.

6.3.2 Single Starts – Manual Timing

At single starts without an electronic start gate, the starter will say “Ready” 10 seconds before the start time and then count down loudly from 5 seconds before the start, saying “Five-four-three-two-one.” At the exact start time, the starter will give the command “Go.” The starter must not touch the competitor.

6.3.3 Pursuit Starts

Two clocks are provided that the competitors must use for their assigned start time.

6.3.4 Simultaneous and Group Starts

In all the Relays, Mass Start competition, Sprint competition with group starts and Super Sprint Final, the start signal will be given by a shot from a start pistol or another start device, or with a flag. Verbal warning signals will be given at 1 minute, 30 seconds and “ready” prior to the start, with the start signal given within 5 seconds after “ready.”

6.3.5 Start in the Hand-Over Zone

In Relay competitions, the relay hand-over must take place within the hand-over zone in such a way that the incoming competitors touch the body (including torso, arms, legs, hands, feet and head) or the rifle of the outgoing competitor with their hand.

6.4 Start Time, Early Start, Late Start and False Start

6.4.1 Electronic Start Time

In single starts, the electronically recorded time when the gate is activated will be considered the start time if competitors activate the gate within 3 seconds before or 3 seconds after the time designated in the start list. If a competitor starts more than 3 seconds before the scheduled time, it will be considered an early start. If a competitor starts more than 3 seconds later than the scheduled start time, it will be considered a late start and the competitor’s time will begin from the scheduled time of start.

6.4.2 Manual Start Time

If only manual timing is used for a single start, the competitor’s start time will be the time stated in the start list. If a competitor starts before the start signal, it will be considered an early start. If the competitor starts too late, it will be considered a late start.

6.4.2.1 Pursuit Competition

Each competitor's start time is the time listed in the start list. In the event of an early start, the competitor will be penalized or disqualified according to the appropriate disciplinary rule. If a competitor arrives too late at a start, the late competitor must be directed through the spare passage, and the official at that point will record the exact time when the competitor crosses the start line. If competitors were late by their own or their team's fault, their competition time will be calculated from their official start time in the start list. If the cause of the delay was force majeure or incorrect or accidental actions of someone outside their team, their competition time and placement in the Pursuit will be calculated from the time recorded by the official.

6.4.3 Relay, Mass Start and Sprint Competitions with Group Starts

The start time is the time when the start signal sounds.

6.4.4 Hand-Over Zone Start Time

The start time of the relay team member who is taking over is the moment when the incoming team member enters the hand-over zone by crossing the timing line at the beginning of the zone.

6.4.5 Early Start – Mass Starts, Sprint, Super Sprint, Individuals and Relays

If a competitor starts too early in Mass Start/Mass Start 60, Relay, Sprint, Super Sprint or Individual/Short Individual competitions or leaves the relay hand-over zone without a valid tag, the competitor must return to the start or the hand-over zone. There the competitor must return to behind the start line – or to the hand-over zone in Relay competitions – and start again. If possible, the competitors will be restarted at their correct start time either through the gate or over the start line using manual timing (except in the Relays). If the correct start time has already expired, the time of start will revert to the listed start time. Time thus lost will count against the competitor.

6.4.6 False Start – Simultaneous, Group and Hand-Over

If there is a false start during a simultaneous or group start, the IBU Referee and officials in charge may fire a second shot and will stop the competitors. The competitors must then start again. If the relay hand-over occurs before or after (outside) the hand-over zone, it will be considered a false start and the procedure must be repeated within the zone.

6.4.7 Starting Outside the Start Window

If in single starts, competitors start more than 3 seconds before or later than the scheduled time, it is considered as Starting Outside the Start Window.

6.4.7.1 If competitors start outside the Start Window due to their own fault:

a. Early start without returning to the start: their actual start time will be recorded and in addition penalty in acc. with Art. 11.3.1.b.;

b. Late start: if competitors are late to the start, they must start at the first possible opportunity as directed by the assistant starter, without obstructing other competitors and in addition penalty in acc. with Art. 11.3.1.b. Their start time will be recorded as the one on the start list.

If their early or late start was due to force majeure, the Competition Jury will decide their start time.

6.5 Start Numbers

6.5.1 General

At all IBU competitions, all competitors must wear the bib assigned to them that has their start number on it. Competitors must also wear their start number on both thighs. Competitors should ensure that their start numbers remain attached to the required positions during a competition. The start number and sequence

color worn by a competitor must be the number and color assigned for that competitor for that competition on the competition start list.

6.5.1.1 Numbering

At the OWG, WCH, WC, OECH (M/W) and IBU Cup competitions, the set of men's and women's start numbers for each start must begin with the number 1 and must continue in numerical order to the last number.

6.5.1.2 Color

The color of the start numbers must clearly contrast with the base color of the cloth/fabric.

6.5.1.3 Sizes of Start Numbers

The start number sizes required in IBU competitions are detailed in the Materials Catalogue.

6.5.2 Start Number Colors by Competition

6.5.2.1 Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start and Super Sprint Competitions

All competitors' start numbers must be of the same design.

6.5.2.2 Relay Competitions

The start number colors that must be used within a team are: red for the starting member, green for the second, yellow for the third and blue for the fourth.

6.6 Weather Conditions

6.6.1 Temperature

Biathlon competitions must not be started if the air temperature is colder than minus 20°C measured at the coldest part of the site (range or course), 1.5 m above ground. Young athletes (youth/junior) being more vulnerable for the effects of cold and less experienced to such conditions should be protected more. Therefore, the limit for Youth/Junior competitions is minus 15°C.

6.6.2 Wind Chill

If it is colder than minus 15°C (minus 10°C for Youth/Junior competitions), wind chill and humidity must be considered before starting. In the case of a high wind chill factor, the competition jury will decide whether to start the competition, in consultation with the Competition and/or Team Physicians. The course to be skied may also be changed to avoid windy areas.

7. SKIING REGULATIONS

7.1 General

7.1.1 General Skiing Rules

Competitors must ski the stipulated competition course in the correct sequence and direction on skis, carrying their rifle and the required number of magazines and rounds, and following the marked course precisely. They may use no other form of propulsion than skis, poles and their own muscular force. All skiing techniques are permitted. Since they are required for timing and other measuring purposes, competitors must carry the electronic transponder device(s) provided by the event timing firm, during the competition, attached to one or both ankles as directed. The transponder may not be removed until the official removal place after the competition. The transponder must be of such design that it does not interfere with the competitors' movements in the competition. The maximum weight of each transponder may not exceed 25 g.

7.1.1.1 Response by Course/Stadium Officials

All course and stadium officials must be alert at all times during the competition so that they notice mistakes from the athletes and issues happening on the course and in the stadium. Course/stadium officials must react and advise the athletes with a sense of urgency to resolve any possible issues and to minimize and prevent mistakes from the athletes.

7.1.1.2 Did Not Finish

If competitors withdraw from the competition before the finish, they must inform the first official they meet and they are responsible for returning the transponders and the start number to the finish equipment/materials and clothing inspection area as soon as possible and performing the required safety check.

7.1.2 Carrying Rifles

Rifles must be carried on the competitor's back with both arms in the rifle carrying harness and with the barrel pointing up. If the rifle becomes so damaged during the competition that it cannot be carried on the competitor's back, it must be safely carried in hand to the shooting range and then must be immediately exchanged for the team reserve rifle. Corrections of the carrying position need to be done immediately and in a controlled way.

7.1.3 Wrong Course Section

If competitors ski on a wrong course section or the wrong sequence, they must return to the point where they made the wrong turn, along the part of the course they have skied in error. In order to do so, the competitors may have to ski against the correct ski direction and will be fully responsible for ensuring that they do not obstruct or endanger other competitors. There will be no penalty for having committed the error as long as no other competitors have been impeded.

7.1.4 Passing and Giving Way

A competitor, who is in a position to pass another competitor, and wishes to pass, must yell "Track." A competitor who is about to be overtaken must clear the course in front of the passing competitor at the first yell of "Track" or another voice signal, even if the course is wide enough. However, this obligation does not apply:

a. In the finish corridors;

b. In Pursuit, Super Sprint Finals, Mass Starts, and Men and Women's Relays

The competitor on or exiting the penalty loop has the right of way over the competitor entering the penalty loop.

7.1.5 Skiing Penalty Loops

In all competitions in which the shot-penalty is the 150 m or 75 m penalty loop, competitors must ski the loop once for every missed target immediately after the shooting bout.

7.1.5.1 Responsibility

Competitors themselves will be responsible for skiing the required number of penalty loops directly after the respective shooting bout. They are not permitted to complete such penalty loops after the next shooting bout or before crossing the finish line. However, they can return back on the course to the penalty loop after they realized that penalty loop was not skied – without obstructing other athletes (same as rule 7.1.3).

7.1.5.2 Penalty Loop Error

If due to a mistake by the OC or a target malfunction, competitors ski the wrong number of penalty loops, the Competition Jury must decide on an appropriate time adjustment. In each competition where the penalty loop is used, the OC must ensure that the average penalty loop ski time is recorded, based on at least five competitors.

7.1.6 Start for All Relays, Mass and Group Starts

The use of the skating technique in simultaneous or group starts (one or both legs sideways) is permitted once the start signal is given. Passing is allowed after the start signal is given.

7.2 Obstruction

It is strictly forbidden to impede other competitors in any way at any time during the competition. This ban also includes dropping objects on the competition course or the shooting range in such a way that other competitors are impeded.

7.3 Exchanging Equipment, Repairs, Assistance

7.3.1 Exchanging Skis and Poles

Competitors may exchange their skis only if it can be objectively proven that a competitor has broken skis or bindings by accident. In such case the jury can accept the exchange of one/two skis in order for the competitor to finish the competition. Poles and straps may be exchanged repeatedly. On the shooting range, equipment may only be passed to the athletes by competition officials. The replacement skis and poles must be in conformity with the IBU Materials Catalogue rules. Competitors may cross the finish line with only one ski due to an accident.

7.3.2 Glide Performance and Equipment Repairs

Competitors may not change the glide performance of their skis by applying any substances during a competition. They may repair their equipment during a competition, provided they receive no assistance from any other person – this ban does not include opening and/or closing the ski bindings.

7.3.3 Rifle Repairs, Exchange and Ammunition

Assistance to repair a rifle is only permitted on the shooting range by the competition armorer or a competition official on the shooting range. A rifle may be exchanged only on the shooting range. Competitors are permitted to receive ammunition and magazines only on the shooting range.

7.3.4 Refreshments

Competitors may consume refreshments during the competition. The refreshments may be handed to them.

7.3.5 Other Assistance

A specific reason for permission of assistance is if an athlete receives help to return to the track after an incident/crash or if assistance is needed to allow the athlete to continue competing.

8. SHOOTING REGULATIONS

8.1 General

8.1.1 Shooting Rules

All shooting during training and competition must take place at the shooting range. In a competition, competitors must shoot after having completed each of the required sections of the course for the competition, except the last section which will end at the finish or the relay hand-over. The shooting specifications for all competitions are given in Table 1 under Art. 1.4.10.

8.1.2 Dry shooting during the event period, no matter at which location (not limited to the venue area), is also covered by the shooting regulations described in chapter 8. of the ECR.

8.1.3 Response by Range Officials

All range officials must be alert at all times during the competition so that they notice a raised hand or a yell by a competitor asking for assistance or any other mistakes and issues happening at the shooting range. Range officials must react with a sense of urgency and move quickly to minimize the time required to resolve any possible issues and to minimize and prevent mistakes from the athletes.

8.2 Shooting Rules for Specific Competitions

8.2.1 Selecting Shooting Lanes

In Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, shooting lanes may be freely chosen by the competitor from among the targets that are ready in the correct sequence (prone or standing). In the Pursuit, Individual and Sprint with group start competitions, the competitors must go sequentially in the shooting lanes starting with lane 1 and taking the lowest available number, until the last shooting lane is reached, at which time the next competitor must go to lane number 1 and the process begins again. In Mass Start and Super Sprint Final competitions, in the first shooting bout the competitors must shoot from the lane number designated by their start number, and in subsequent bouts by filling in the range sequentially from the right in the order of competitors' arrival on the range. In Mass Start 60 competitions, competitors of the second group, in the first shooting bout, have to fill up the range as follows: start number 31 on lane 1, start number 32 on lane 2, etc. In Relay competitions, the shooting lane designated by the team's start number must be used for the first shooting bout by the first competitor of each team; after that the range will be filled in sequentially from the right in the order of competitors' arrival on the range.

8.2.2 Relay Competitions – Spare Rounds

In Relay competitions, each competitor must fire the first five rounds and if targets remain standing, they must use the three spare rounds until all five targets are hit or until all eight rounds are fired. If competitors need spare rounds after having fired the first five rounds, the spare rounds must be hand-loaded one by one – not loaded directly from a magazine.

8.3 Shooting Positions

8.3.1 Prone Position

In the prone position, competitors must comply with the following regulations: the rifle may only be in contact with their hands, shoulder and cheek. The lower side of the wrist of the arm, supporting the rifle, must be distinctly raised from the ground (snow surface).

8.3.2 Standing Position

In the standing position, competitors must stand without any support. Only their hands, shoulder, cheek and the area of their chest next to their shoulder may be in contact with the rifle. They may hold the arm, supporting the rifle, against their chest or prop it against their hip.

8.3.2.1 No Removal of Skis

Removing one or both skis when on the mat – including training and zeroing – is prohibited, and placing any kind of object under the skis is also prohibited.

8.3.3 Position in Shooting Lane

By taking their shooting position athletes are not allowed to disturb/obstruct other athletes on the mats next to them with any parts of their body or equipment. This applies also to the time during the shooting bout and when leaving afterward.

8.3.4 Enforcement

Competitors should be warned by a range official that their shooting position, shooting lane or their position in the shooting lane is not in compliance with the rules. Those warned competitors must immediately correct their position.

8.3.5 Shooting score

Any shots hitting the target from a wrong shooting position, wrong shooting sequence and/or wrong position in the shooting lane will not be scored. Likewise, any additional shot will not be scored, regardless of whether it hits a target. As a consequence, the competitor will receive a missed target penalty in acc. with the respective competition format (time penalty at Individual/Short Individual competitions or penalty for any penalty loop not run at all other competitions) and in addition the thirty second penalty in acc. with Art. 11.3.1 c.

8.4 Shooting Aids

8.4.1 Use of Shooting Sling and Arm Cuff

Competitors are permitted to use a shooting sling and arm cuff in both the prone and standing positions. Alternative shooting aids must be approved by the technical committee for extraordinary circumstances.

8.4.2 Use of Magazine

The five rounds required in each bout of shooting may be loaded with the use of a magazine. If, after the first shot is fired, rounds are lost from the magazine or fail to fire, a new magazine may not be inserted into the rifle. Such rounds must be loaded individually. However, if a magazine is lost or proves to be defective before the first shot is fired, it may be replaced with another magazine, provided no live round remains in the chamber.

8.4.2.1 Magazine Transfer Definition

The process of transferring a magazine involves the following steps: the magazine is initially located in the magazine holder, and then moved intentionally by hand to the magazine well. It is physically inserted into the magazine well by hand power, ensuring secure placement for use. It must be ensured that a magazine cannot be inserted accidentally.

8.4.2.2 Magazine Replacement Definition

The magazine replacement process involves the following steps: the empty magazine is removed from the magazine well and placed into the magazine holder. A full magazine is then inserted intentionally by hand into the magazine well, ensuring the insertion is performed safely and securely. It must be ensured that a magazine cannot be inserted accidentally.

8.5 Safety Regulations

8.5.1 General

When a rifle is brought into or is taken out of the stadium area, it must be in a case or a cover bag. As a visible sign that there is no cartridge in the chamber, an additional safety marker (colored flag or lock) must be attached. The marker may only be removed as of Art. 8.5.1.1.

Shooting is only permitted on the shooting range, during officially authorized times. Making rifle movements that might endanger others or the competitors themselves, regardless of whether the rifle is loaded or not, is forbidden. Situations considered as safe are: carrying the rifle on the back or having the bolt open. The rifle muzzle must be over the forward edge of the shooting ramp (firing line) from the beginning to the end of the shooting bout. At no time while being on the mat it is allowed for the athlete to deliberately point the rifle muzzle towards him/herself or others. When the range is open for shooting, no one (with no part of the body) is permitted to be forward of that line. Officials, TV crew members and photographers must take responsibility for their own safety if they enter this area. At all times, competitors will be responsible for the safety of their actions and rifles.

8.5.1.1 Safety marker

The safety marker (colored flag or lock) has to be used in all rifles (including reserve rifles) when entering the stadium. It has to remain in place until the athlete reaches the shooting range, where it might be removed for training or competing.

Training: when leaving the range after training, the safety marker needs to be inserted again.

Rifle controls: all rifles must be presented at the rifle control with the safety marker inserted, regardless of when such inspection occurs. Control personnel might remove the marker for control purposes, but the rifle has to leave the control again with inserted safety marker.

Zeroing: as with training, when leaving the range after zeroing the safety marker must be inserted in the chamber. It is only removed by the official at the final check before the start.

Competition end: after arriving in the finish/passing the mixed zone, the safety flag has to be inserted again as soon as possible, but in any case when leaving the finish exit area/returning to warm-up area (rifle racks). The marker must then remain in the rifle at all times until the process begins again.

Only exception: for dry shooting the safety flag might be removed, but must be inserted right after again. For dry shooting safety the use of a so called „rubber bullet“ is recommended.

8.5.2 Loading and Unloading

After starting in a competition, it is forbidden to open the bolt or remove a magazine from the stock or magazine-well except when stopped on the shooting mat. Rifles may be loaded and unloaded only with the barrel pointing in the direction of the targets or up. Inserting a magazine containing bullets into the rifle is also part of the loading procedure. When moving from one shooting lane to another, competitors must first unload their rifle and place the rifle on their back in the normal carrying position with both arms in the rifle carrying harness.

8.5.2.1 Safety Check after Shooting

Rifles must be unloaded after each shooting bout – that is, no round may be left in the chamber or in the inserted magazine. However, competitors are permitted to leave the cartridge case in the chamber and the empty magazine in the rifle after the last shot. At the end of training and competitions, all rifles must be safety checked by opening the bolt and removing the inserted magazine, with the barrel pointed toward the target or upward. All ammunition must be removed from both the stock and the magazines.

8.5.3 Aimed Shots

All shots must be aimed and fired at the targets only.

8.5.4 Removing and shouldering of Rifle

Athletes shall have their rifle carrying harness fully on both shoulders and have both arms fully within the rifle carrying harness when approaching and leaving the shooting mat. The rifle removal process may only be initiated after the athlete has arrived on the shooting mat.

Athletes may resume skiing only after the rifle has been securely returned to the prescribed carrying position in accordance with Article 7.1.2.

An athlete who leaves the shooting mat without properly wearing the rifle carrying harness accidentally shall stop immediately and correct the situation before continuing, without obstructing or endangering other athletes.

8.5.5 Safety at the Finish

At all IBU competitions, there must be one or more official(s) at the end of the finish area to open the rifle action of every competitor. This check may only be performed when the rifles are pointing upwards. At the same time, the official will inspect the cartridge case ejected from the chamber. If this safety check is not done, the competitors must do it themselves. All ammunition must be removed from the stock and the magazines.

8 .6 Misfires, Lost Rounds/Magazines and Damaged Rifles

8.6.1 Misfires and Lost Rounds/Magazines

Misfired or lost rounds, or magazines may be replaced by competitors themselves if they are carrying spare rounds or magazines. If they are not carrying spare rounds or magazines, competitors may obtain replacement rounds or magazines from a range official by raising a hand and loudly saying “Ammunition” and the name of their NF. The range official who responds will get the spare rounds from the team’s reserve rifle or from the team’s support staff behind the range and deliver them to the competitor. A misfired round is a round in which there was no ignition at all.

8.6.2 Damaged or Non-Functional Rifles

If a competitor’s rifle needs to be repaired or otherwise made functional, the competitor may do the repairs or may accept assistance, but only from the competition armorer or a range official. If the rifle cannot be made functional, it may be exchanged for the team’s reserve rifle.

8.6.2.1 Reserve Rifle

Rifles that have been damaged or are not fully functional during the competition, or that malfunction for technical reasons to such an extent that they cannot be used to continue the competition may be exchanged for a team’s reserve rifle. Reserve rifles, a maximum of three per team, need to be inspected and marked at the equipment check before the start of competition and deposited by the range official in the designated reserve rifle rack on the range not later than 2 minutes after the competition start. The competitor can change the reserve rifle to his rifle after repairing by team coaches. Before deposit back in the designed reserve rifle rack, the rifle needs to be checked by the range official.

On competition days with two or more competitions, reserve rifles which are used for more than one category/age class by a team don’t need to be controlled a second time but must be removed from the shooting range between the different competitions (in acc. with Art. 8.5.2.1)

8.6.2.2 Rifle/Magazine/Ammunition Exchange Procedure

If a competitor’s rifle has been damaged or a magazine lost on the course, the competitor may ski to the team’s reserve rifle in the rack on the range, prior to going to the shooting lane, and exchange their rifle or replace their magazine, and then continue to their shooting lane. Alternatively, competitors may proceed directly to their shooting mat, where a range official will bring the team’s reserve rifle or a replacement magazine for the exchange.

During the shooting, competitors must indicate that their rifle needs to be exchanged by raising their hand. When a range official responds, the competitors must point to their rifle and say “Rifle” and the name of their NF loudly. The range official will obtain the team’s spare rifle from the designated rifle rack and bring it to the competitors.

8.6.3 No Time Adjustment

There will be no time adjustment for repairing or exchanging a rifle or obtaining a spare magazine or rounds.

8.7 Target Errors and Malfunctions

8.7.1 Incorrectly Set Target

If a competitor is confronted with an incorrectly set target, the incorrect target must be set to the correct position immediately. The competitor will then commence shooting from the beginning and will be allowed to use a new magazine if five new shots are needed to complete the bout of shooting. In the event that the competitor had hits from the standing position for a target that was mistakenly set for prone, the hits may be scored.

8.7.2 Target Malfunction

If a target fails to function, the competitor must be directed to another target and the defective target must be blocked off immediately. The range official will inform the competitor whether to continue the shooting bout or recommence shooting from the beginning.

8.7.3 Cross-Firing, Shooting from the Wrong Lane, and Targets Hit by Another Competitor

If the target at which a competitor is shooting is fired at by another competitor, the competitor must raise a hand and the one shooting incorrectly must be stopped as soon as possible. If no target plates have fallen, the correct competitor may continue shooting. If a target plate has been hit, the target must be reset immediately and the competitor must then fire the remaining shots on the reset target.

8.7.3.1 Before such a target is reset, the hits and their positions must be recorded. In such a case in the Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start or Relay competitions, the range official must tell the competitor how many penalty loops to do.

8.7.3.2 If competitors cross-fire onto a target not in their shooting lane, and no other competitor is shooting on that target, the mistake should be pointed out to them by a range official immediately after discovering the mistake by saying “Cross-Fire” loudly. The competitor has the right to shoot all remaining shots onto the correct target. However, hits on the wrong target will not be scored. Only those of the competitor’s hits that are on the correct target will be scored.

8.7.3.3 For all shooting bouts where shooting lanes are assigned by start number, competitors must shoot from their assigned lane unless they are prevented due to the error of another competitor.

8.7.4 Time Adjustments and Responsibility

The Competition Jury will make an appropriate time adjustment in case competitors have lost time through no fault of their own:

a. due to a target malfunction;

b. due to a range issue.

8.7.4.1 Own Error

If, however, competitors make an error such as cross-firing or selecting a target that has been used and not reset, they themselves will be held responsible and no time adjustment will be made.

8.7.5 Scoring of Shooting

A system of scoring the shooting must be put in place by the OC for all shooting in competitions. Each shot that is fired in a competition must be observed by three independent persons or methods. At events where an electronic target-scoring device is in use and/or required, there must be two separate observations by range officials.

9. THE FINISH, COMPETITION TIME AND RESULTS

9.1 The Finish

9.1.1 Moment of Finish

Finish is the moment when a competitor's or a Relay team's competition time ends. When electronic timing is used, the finish is when the beam of the electronic sensor at the finish line is broken by the competitor. When manual timing is used, the finish is when the competitor crosses the finish line with one or both feet. In Relay competitions, the timing is to be taken from the last member to finish.

9.2 Competition Time

The competition time is the period of time elapsed during the competition on which the placing of a competitor or relay team in the results of the competition is based. The time always includes any penalties or adjustments imposed or awarded by the Competition Jury.

9.2.1 Individual Competitions

In Individual competitions, the competitor's time is the time elapsed between start and finish plus any shot-penalty time imposed.

9.2.2 Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start Competitions

9.2.2.1 In Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, the competitors' time is the time elapsed between their start and finish.

9.2.2.2 In the Pursuit competition, Mass Start and Super Sprint Final competitions, the first competitor to cross the finish line, after penalties and time adjustments have been accounted for, will be declared the winner. This also applies to the rankings of subsequent finishers. The competitor's time is the time elapsed between the first start and the finish.

9.2.3 Overtaken Competitors in Pursuit and Mass Start Competitions

In Pursuit, Mass Start and Super Sprint Final competitions at the OWG, WCH, WC, SB WCH (M/W), OECH, IBU Cups, JC and JWCH, lapped competitors must move to the side and stop competing in the competition immediately when they are overtaken by the leading competitor.

9.2.4 Relay Competitions

In all Relay competitions, the competition time of a team member is the time elapsed from the start, or hand-over, to the next completed hand-over or from the hand-over to the finish. The total time of a relay team is the time elapsed between the start of the first member to the finish of the last member. The time of the incoming members stops when they cross the timing line into the hand-over zone; the time of the outgoing members begins at the same moment.

9.2.4.1 Lapped Competitors in Relay Competitions

9.2.4.1.1 At the OWG, WCH, WC, SB WCH (M/W), OECH and IBU Cups, lapped competitors must move to the side and stop competing in the competition immediately when they are lapped by the leading competitor. Those teams will be ranked on the results list and receive all associated points based on the moment they are lapped or at the last timing point they passed, if the moment they were lapped cannot be determined.

9.2.4.1.2 At youth/junior competitions, lapped teams are permitted to continue competing. However, two (2) minutes after the first team finishes, only teams that have reached the shooting range entry („range in") for their final shooting round may continue to the finish. All other teams will be stopped at the shooting range before their next shooting or at the next exchange. In such cases, teams will receive rank and points according to the rank they had when they reached that point.

9.2.4.2 Placing in Relay Competition

The placings of relay teams in the results will be decided by the finishing order of each team's respective last competitors, after time penalties and/or time adjustments have been accounted for.

9.2.5 Equal Time – Tie

If two or more competitors have the same competition time, they will be placed in the results with equal (tie) rankings. In Pursuit, Mass Start and Relay competitions at OWG, WCH, JWCH, WC and OECH events, if analysis of the photo-finish camera data cannot determine the order in which two or more athletes have finished, a tie will be declared. Equal placings (ties) in a competition will be given an equal number of points.

9.2.6 Photo-Finish

In Pursuit, Mass Start, Super Sprint Final and Relay competitions at OWG, WCH, JWCH, WC, IBU Cup and OECH events, a photo-finish camera must be installed at the finish line to record the finish. The camera must be placed exactly in line with the finish line and in such a position that the entire finish line is seen by the camera. If the photo-finish record is required to decide the order of finish, the order in the photo-finish record will determine the placings. The decision will be based on the first part of the first foot crossing the finish line. If there is a photo-finish, the Competition Jury will decide the finish order based on the photo-finish record.

9.2.6.1 Finish Video Camera

At OWG, WCH, JWCH, WC, IBU Cup and OECH events, a video camera must be installed at the finish in such a way that it will record the start numbers of competitors as they cross the finish line. Such a system is recommended for all other events as well.

9.2.7 Intermediate Times

At OWG, WCH, JWCH and WC competitions, competitors' times must be available for the electronic information board, the media and teams after each bout of shooting. An intermediate timing line will be set after the penalty loop (or after the range for the Individual competition) and each competitor's time must be recorded after each bout of shooting.

Official intermediate timing points to be used for timing and results purposes must be identified in the competition timing plan and communicated to the teams before the competition.

9.2.8 Interrupted Competitions

9.2.8.1 At Pursuit, Mass Start and Super Sprint Final competitions where the Jury determines it is not possible to complete the competition, official results may be produced only if at least three shooting bouts have been completed.

The final ranking will be determined using the latest official intermediate timing point passed by each competitor before the competition is stopped. Competitors who have passed a later official intermediate timing point will be ranked ahead of competitors who have not reached that timing point.

Among competitors who have passed the same official intermediate timing point, ranking will be determined by the recorded time at that timing point. Only times recorded at official intermediate timing points may be used for determining the final ranking. If fewer than three shooting bouts have been completed, the competition will be stopped and no official results will be produced.

9.2.8.2 At relay competitions where the Jury determines it is not possible to complete the competition, official results may be produced only if three relay legs have been completed. If the competition is stopped after the completion of the third relay leg, the hand-over time after the third relay leg will be the final result.

If the competition is stopped during the fourth relay leg, the final ranking will be determined using the latest official intermediate timing point passed by each team before the competition is stopped. Teams that have

passed a later official intermediate timing point will be ranked ahead of teams that have not reached that timing point.

Among teams that have passed the same official intermediate timing point, ranking will be determined by the time recorded at that timing point. A team will be considered to have passed an official intermediate timing point only when a time has been recorded by the official timing system. Only times recorded at official intermediate timing points may be used for determining the final ranking.

9.3 Timing Systems

9.3.1 Requirements

Competition time must be measured electronically, backed by manual timing. Manual timing may be used only if the electronic system fails during the competition. Specifications of timing equipment are given in the IBU Materials Catalogue (Annex A).

9.3.2 Units of Measurement

Electronically and manually measured competition times must be registered to 1/10 (0.1) of a second.

9.4 The Competition Results

9.4.1 General

Results are the record of the performance of the competitors or teams in a competition. The OC will be responsible for producing and distributing the results on paper and electronically. At all IBU events, English must be used in the results; however, more than one language may be used in the same results. Unofficial and final results must include the following information:

a. Name and location of the event;

b. Type, time and date of the competition;

c. Course and weather data;

d. Names of the Competition Jury members;

e. Signature of the TD;

f. Number of competitors entered and total ranked;

g. Number of those who did not start and did not finish;

h. Notes about imposed penalties: Article, time adjustment or kind of penalty;

i. Columns for:

- placings, in ranking order from first to last;
- start numbers;
- last and first names of competitors;
- competitors' year of birth (for start and result lists, when possible);
- NF or team;
- shooting penalties per bout;
- shooting penalties, total;
- ski times to 1/10 (0.1) second;
- total time, and team time in Relay;
- time behind;
- Cup points (when appropriate);
- Nations Cup points (when appropriate).

For the Pursuit competition, the times shown are the time behind the first starter for the winner, followed by the time behind the winner for the remaining competitors.

9.4.1.1 Ties

If there is an equal competition time, the tied competitors will be given equal ranking and equal points in the results; however, there will be no next placing in the results.

9.4.2 Types of Results

There are three types of results: intermediate, unofficial and final.

9.4.2.1 Intermediate Results

Intermediate results reflect the competition situation during the competition and are for information only. They will be displayed on the scoreboard, announced by the public announcer and will be available through the electronic information system.

9.4.2.2 Unofficial Results

Unofficial results are the first official record of the competition produced by the OC after the last finish. Unofficial results are always subject to protest and must be published and posted at the finish area and competition office as soon as possible after the last competitor has finished and the competition committee and jury has resolved all outstanding issues, such as penalty corrections, time adjustments, disqualifications, and other possible jury decisions. In the case that this operations delay or the jury meeting takes longer, the status of the results remains UNCONFIRMED for electronic display only and no printed output is produced until the resolvent of the case(s) and the production and posting of the Unofficial Results. The TD must sign and write the time of posting on the unofficial results list so that the end of the protest period is clear. In case an unofficial result needs to be changed (e.g. due to technical issues or issues the jury was not aware of before posting the first version of unofficial results), the amended result has to be signed and posted one more time. In such case a new protest time period starts.

9.4.2.3 Final Results

Final results are the official record of the competition produced by the OC after the unofficial results have been posted for 15 minutes. Final results are only subject to protest at the Jury of Appeal, not the Competition Jury. The final results must be published immediately after the deadline for protests has passed, or as soon as the Competition Jury has made its decisions on protests that have been submitted. The TD must sign and state the time of posting on the final results list.

10. PROTESTS

10.1 General

Protests must be submitted in writing to the competition secretary or the TD/RD, using the official IBU Protest Form, for the attention of the Competition Jury, and must be accompanied by a fee of € 100, or equivalent in the currency of the host NF. The IBU protest form can be obtained from the Competition Secretary or downloaded from the IBU website. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded. If the protest is rejected, the sum will go to the IBU.

10.2 Protest Types and Conditions

10.2.1 Eligibility Protests

Protests concerning the eligibility of a competitor may be submitted at any time up to the end of the protest time for the competition in question.

10.2.2 Protests During and After Competitions

Protests concerning violation of rules by competitors and team staff, mistakes made by officials, competition conditions and the unofficial results must be submitted in the time period from the start of zeroing before the competition until 15 minutes after the posting of the unofficial results. The OC must make a clear announcement regarding where the unofficial results will be posted.

10.2.3 Repetition or Annulment

If the examination of a protest reveals circumstances that are so serious that cast doubt on the sporting merit of the competition, or if the Competition Jury from its own observation comes to the same conclusion, the Competition Jury may decide to repeat the competition or to annul the competition without repetition.

11. EVENT & COMPETITION PENALTIES AND DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Penalties and/or disciplinary measures are reprimands, start prohibitions, time penalties, disqualifications, suspension and fines.

Such penalties and/or disciplinary measures can be imposed upon officials, staff, athletes and/or member federations and will be imposed in case of culpable actions (i.e. actions taken willfully or negligently) for:

- violation of the principles of fair play and unsportsmanlike conduct, especially for breaches of the IBU Event and Competition Rules;
- endangering or impairing the reputation of the IBU within the framework of events and competitions;
- violations of the IBU Advertising Rules.

Notwithstanding any other provision in these IBU Event and Competition Rules or elsewhere, the Head of the Biathlon Integrity Unit may decide at any time (either on the proposal of another IBU Official or of his/her own accord) that a breach of the IBU Event and Competition Rules or the IBU Advertising Rules is sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with not (or not only) under the IBU Event and Competition Rules or the IBU Advertising Rules, but rather (or also) as a breach of Article B.9 of the IBU Integrity Code.

11.1 Reprimands

A reprimand will be imposed in the case of:

a. jeopardizing or defaming the honor or reputation of the IBU in a very minor way;

b. insulting the IBU, its organs, its members, the organs of its members or their affiliates and relatives;

c. violations of rules for which there is no penalty or for which there is not an expressly stated, more severe penalty.

d. not proper handling of safety marker protocols for the first time (Art. 8.5.1.1)

11.2 Start Prohibition

Athletes or teams will be prohibited from starting for:

a. violation of the eligibility and qualification requirements of the IBU Event and Competition Rules;

b. appearing for start with materials, equipment, clothing or advertising not in compliance with the IBU Event and Competition Rules or Annex A (the IBU Material Catalogue) to those Rules, or with the IBU Advertising Rules;

c. appearing for start with the wrong start number, or no start number/thigh number, due to a mistake made by the athletes or their teams;

d. violating the rules regarding official training, zeroing, warm-up and/or ski testing or safety regulations.

The prohibition applies for the competition in which the violation occurred, or the next competition, as applicable.

The responsible IBU Referee is to impose start prohibitions according to Art. 11.2 b and c.

11.3 Time Penalties and Disqualification

11.3.1 Thirty-Second Penalty

A thirty-second penalty will be imposed if:

a. an athlete competes in a pursuit and starts up to max. three seconds before the officially assigned start time;

b. starting outside the start window in the Sprint, Individual or Super Sprint Qualification competitions without returning to the start acc. to Art. 6.4.7.1;

c. breaching the rules listed in Art. 8.2.1 at Mass Start, Sprint and Individual with group start, Super Sprint Final, Pursuit and/or Relay competitions;

   Exception: there will be no penalty for athletes shooting from a wrong lane if this mistake is initiated by another competitor or official.

d. having shot from a wrong shooting position, wrong shooting sequence and/or wrong position in the shooting lane.

e. appearing at final start control without rifle safety marker after already receiving reprimand as of 11.1.d in the same event series;

f. Leaving the relay handover zone boundaries while waiting for the handover

11.3.2 One-Minute Penalty

A time penalty of one minute will be imposed on athletes or teams for:

a. not giving way at the first request by an overtaking competitor in Sprint and Individual Competition;

b. violation of Art. 7.1.4 and/or Art. 7.2;

c. committing a very minor violation of the principles of fair play or the requirements of sportsmanship.

11.3.3 Two-Minute Penalty

A time penalty of two minutes will be imposed on athletes or teams for:

a. every penalty loop, resulting from shot penalties, not done by an athlete immediately after each prone or standing shoot;

b. every round not fired if athletes recommence skiing before they have fired all five shots in Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start or Super Sprint competitions, or all eight shots in a Relay competition, having not hit all targets;

c. starting without a tag at the relays hand-over. Both athletes need to be in the hand-over zone acc. to Art. 6.4.4 and Art. 9.2.4. Otherwise it is no start at all;

d. cross-fire;

e. committing a minor violation of the principles of fair play or the requirements of sportsmanship.

f. taking part in a competition with a rifle not correctly marked (IBU control sticker);

g. every additional round fired after athletes have fired five rounds in any shooting bout of Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start and Super Sprint competitions or eight rounds in Relay competitions;

11.3.4 Disqualification

Athletes or teams will be disqualified for:

a. breaching the rules listed in Art. 11.2 a–d;

b. violating Article 1.5 of the IBU Event and Competition Rules “Eligibility Rules for Competitors and Team Staff”;

c. receiving prohibited assistance as defined in the IBU Event and Competition Rules from a member of their team staff or non-competing athletes from their team;

d. avoiding start or finish inspections;

e. modifying equipment, rifle or clothing that has been inspected and marked at start inspection, in a prohibited way;

f. participation in a competition with a start number or start number sequence color that has not been assigned to them on the competition start list, regardless of whether this is deliberate or due to a mistake made by them or by their team;

g. deviating from the marked trail, or skiing a wrong trail, or skiing the course loops in a wrong sequence or in the wrong direction (exception: see Art. 7.1.3);

h. using means of propulsion other than skis, poles and their own muscular force;

i. not carrying their rifle while skiing during the competition, and for not carrying their rifle on the course, with the barrel pointing up. Does not apply for severely damaged rifles;

j. hindering another competitor on the course or at the shooting range by serious obstruction;

k. exchanging a ski during the competition if the ski or binding is not broken;

l. accepting unauthorized assistance from any person when repairing equipment, or receiving assistance other than authorized;

m. for applying any substances during a competition intended to change the glide performance of their skis;

n. using a second magazine instead of hand-loading lost rounds, replacement rounds for misfires, or spare rounds individually;

o. violating any shooting safety regulations as defined in Article 8.5 of the IBU Event and Competition Rules (except for ECR 8.5.1.1.);

p. exchanging their rifle for another rifle, after starting, in any other location than the shooting range;

q. starting more than three seconds earlier than the assigned start time in a Pursuit competition

r. failing to stop competing in the competition after being lapped in the WC/WCH/IBU Cup/OECH/OWG Relay, Pursuit, Mass Start or Super Sprint Final or JC/JWCH Mass Start or Pursuit competitions;

s. Removing one or both skis while shooting or placing any kind of object under the skis while shooting acc. to Art. 8.3.2.1;

t. committing a serious violation of the principles of fair play or the requirements of sportsmanship.

11.4 Penalties for Rule Violations in the Finish Corridors

For rule violations in the finish corridors as described in ECR 3.5.1.2, the following penalties may be applied as decided by the Jury:

a. reprimand;

b. adjustment of ranks for those affected by the violation;

c. time penalty: 30 seconds, 1 minute, or 2 minutes;

d. disqualification.

11.5 Suspension

11.5.1 If, after the end of a competition protest deadline, an athlete is found guilty of having grossly violated the IBU Rules, the Competition Jury of the competition concerned may suspend that athlete from the next competition. In the event of a particularly gross violation, that suspension may be extended under the IBU Integrity Code to more than one competition and up to a maximum of all competitions within the next two trimesters. Such suspension would apply to all IBU events and IOC Events within this time frame. A preliminary suspension may be imposed with immediate effect by the Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU).

11.5.2 An athlete who has participated in an international biathlon event that has not been authorized by the IBU may be suspended for one or more IBU competitions by the IBU Executive Board.

11.5.3 An athlete who violated Annex A Art. 1.3 may be suspended for one or more IBU competitions by the IBU Executive Board.

11.5.4 An NF whose athletes have violated Annex A Art. 1.3 multiple times may be suspended for one or more IBU competitions under the IBU Integrity Code. This might be applied for all athletes of such NF in

the respective IBU Event series. A preliminary suspension may be imposed with immediate effect by the Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU).

11.6 Fines

11.6.1 Fines up to €1000 may be imposed by the Competition Jury on those who violate the IBU Event and Competition Rules and/or their member federations or those jeopardizing/defaming the honor or reputation of the IBU in a minor way.

11.6.2 Fines up to € 30,000 may be imposed by the IBU Executive Board on those who seriously violate the IBU Rules or decisions of the organs or other competent bodies of the IBU, and/or their member federations or on those who jeopardize or damage the reputation of the IBU in a serious way.

11.6.3 Fines from €30,000 to €100,000 may be imposed under the IBU Integrity Code on those who very seriously violate the IBU Rules or decisions of the organs or other competent bodies of the IBU, and/or their member federations or on those who jeopardize or damage the reputation of the IBU in a very serious way.

11.7 Validity

Except for suspension and monetary fines, the above penalties and disciplinary measures may only be imposed before the publication of the final results.

12. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – EVENT RULES

12.1 General Regulations

12.1.1 Jurisdiction and Terms

The WCH and JWCH are IBU events and are held under its jurisdiction for men, women, junior men and junior women, and for youth men and youth women.

12.1.2 Event Dates

WCH will be held annually and jointly for men and women during dates approved by the IBU EB, but will not be held during years of the OWG. JWCH for junior men and junior women will be held annually during dates approved by the IBU EB. If any IBU competition scheduled for the WCH for whatever reason cannot be held as planned, the EB may reassign it to another event in the same season.

12.1.3 Best Biathletes – Financial Responsibility and Selection (WCH)

IBU will pay the accommodation and meal expenses for the best 30 male and the best 30 female biathletes for a maximum of thirteen nights incl. full board during the WCH according to the valid rates (EB decision) for B-category accommodation (double room). The best biathletes at the WCH will be selected from the top rankings of the current WC Total Score prior to the start of the WCH.

12.2 Bids to Host and Appointment of OC's (WCH)

12.2.1 General

The task of organizing the WCH will be entrusted by the IBU Congress to a member federation of the IBU for the appointed location between a minimum of four and maximum of five years in advance.

12.2.2 Application to Host a WCH

The bid to host a WCH must be submitted to IBU in writing by a NF.

The application and the application fee must be received not later than 90 days before the applicable IBU Congress. The application fee is as follows:

1st Candidacy for an IBU WCH: Application fee € 45,000

If not elected by the IBU Congress, one-third of the fee will be refunded by the IBU to the respective NF (€ 15,000)

2nd Candidacy for an IBU WCH: Application fee € 30,000

If not elected by the IBU Congress, half of the fee will be refunded by the IBU to the respective NF (€ 15,000)

3rd and any further Candidacy for an IBU WCH: Application fee € 10,000

No refund

The venue for which the bid is made must have an A license at the time of the application deadline. The application must be submitted using the official IBU application form and must be signed by the NF president or SG.

12.2.3 The IBU Event Hosting Declaration (WCH and JWCH)

After a host for a WCH has been appointed, the hosting NF must sign the IBU Event Hosting Declaration. By signing, the hosting NF will testify that it accepts and will fulfill, in the required time, the tasks, measures and duties stipulated in the Declaration.

12.3 Event Schedule and Program (WCH and JWCH)

The proposed event schedule and program will be established by the OC in consultation with the RD and submitted to the IBU headquarters at least two years prior to the start of the event. The program must be submitted to the TC for review and must be approved by the IBU EB at the latest one year prior to the start of the WCH.

12.4 Progress Reports (WCH and JWCH)

The OC must report regularly about its progress to the IBU.

12.5 Information Bulletins and Invitations (WCH and JWCH)

12.5.1 Preliminary Information

At least one year prior to the WCH, the OC must send a preliminary information bulletin approved by the RD to all IBU member federations and to the IBU headquarters. The bulletin must provide all significant information about the WCH that is required by the NFs at that time.

12.5.2 Invitation

Not later than 1 September of the year preceding the WCH, the OC must send the official invitations approved by the RD to all IBU NFs and to the IBU headquarters. NFs that require a special invitation for visa purposes must request them from the OC.

The OC must circulate detailed information to all IBU NFs and to the IBU headquarters. The invitation must provide detailed information in accordance with the OC Guidelines.

Invitations may be sent in electronic form by e-mail and by placement on a website with notification by e-mail.

12.6 Participation

12.6.1 Quotas – WCH

12.6.1.1 Maximum Registration and Entries

NFs may participate with the following quota of male and female competitors respectively at WCH event Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, based on the NF's ranking in the previous season's World Cup Nations Cup score final standings:

NATION CUP RANK	WCH REGISTER	WCH START	TOTAL REGISTERED	TOTAL START
1 – 5	8	4	40	20
6 – 15	7	4	70	40
16 – 25	5	3	50	30
26 – 30	4	2	20	10
31 + & Not Ranked (Wild Cards total 10)*		10	10	10
			190	110

* Maximum 2 athletes per NF

12.6.1.1.1 Additional Start Quotas

a) Those NFs without a quota based on their Nations Cup ranking can earn a start quota of up to a maximum of two competitors through NF Wild Cards. The 10 best-ranked athletes on the IBU qualifying points list from a NF not already having a quota in the WCH, earn a start quota for their respective NF (maximum two per NF). All athletes intending to start through such a quota have to fulfill the personal WCH qualification criteria.

b) NFs with more than four (4) athletes ranked top 15 in current WC Total Score have a right to enter those competitors, however, the NF's quota for Sprint, Individual may not exceed five (5) per NF.

c) Additionally, the NFs of the Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start champions of the last WCH may enter those competitors at the WCH Individual, Sprint and Mass Start competitions respectively, in addition to their NF's quota. The Pursuit Champion of the last WCH may enter additionally in the Sprint competition, however, the NF's quota for the Sprint competition may not exceed six (6) per NF.

12.6.1.2 Pursuit Competitions

The top 60 competitors from the qualifying competition will be entitled to start in the Pursuit competition.

12.6.1.3 Mass Start Competitions

The Mass Start competition entries consist of 30 competitors, determined as follows: the top 15 from the WC Total Score plus any medal winners that are not among the top 15 in the WC Total Score, then the remaining competitors will be filled in from the points they have acquired in the Individual, Sprint and Pursuit competitions of the WCH being held, in ranking order, using the WC points system for a WCH ranking. In case competitors are tied, the one with the best single result in the current WCH will be ranked ahead. If still tied the one with the best current WC Total Score and if still tied the athlete with less IBU Qualifying points will be ranked ahead. Start numbers will be assigned in the order as follows: the gold medalist of the first personal competition of the WCH will receive start number 1; the gold medalist of the second personal competition will receive number 2; and the gold medalist of the third personal competition will receive number 3, with the silver medalists of the personal competition receiving start numbers in the same order beginning with start number 4–6, and bronze medalists in the same way beginning with start number 7–9. The top competitors in the current WC Total Score will receive start number 10, and so on. If a competitor has won more than one medal in the personal competitions of the WCH being held, he will receive the lowest start number in keeping with the above sequence and other competitors will move up in the same order, and the same principle will apply if more than one competitor wins multiple medals, or if one or more competitors are missing. Four competitors will be the maximum number of entries allowed by any NF. However:

a) if an NF has more than four medalists, then all medalists from that NF will be entitled to start;

b) if an NF has more than four (4) athletes among top15 in current WC Total Score, then all those athlete will be entitled to start, however, the quota may not exceed five (5) per NF;

c) in addition to the NF's quota, the champions of the last WCH Mass Start will be allowed to be entered. She and he will receive start number 30 unless they have already been selected in accordance with the above rule.

12.6.1.4 Relay Competitions

The best 30 NFs (women's and men's results) may enter relay teams based on the NF's current women's and men's WC Nations Cup score. If any of the top 30 ranked teams are not entered, the next ranked teams may enter. NFs having a start right may register the minimum number of athletes required to compete in the relay provided all the athletes meet the qualification requirements for the WCH. The affected NF teams are therefore allowed to register a maximum of four (4) for Relay competitions.

12.6.1.5 Mixed Relay Competitions

A maximum of 30 Mixed Relay teams will be allowed to participate (one per NF), based on the sum of the NF's current women's and men's WC Nations Cup score. If any of the top 30 ranked teams are not entered, the next ranked teams may enter. NFs having a start right may register the minimum number of athletes required to compete in the mixed relays and single mixed relays provided the NFs have both men and women with a start right for the WCH; the affected NF teams are therefore allowed to register a maximum two (2) per sex for Mixed Relay competitions.

12.6.2 Quota – JWCH

12.6.2.1 JWCH Maximum Registration and Entries

Each NF may register a maximum of five junior men and junior women each

Youth athletes may participate according to Art. 1.3.1. All athletes must meet the requirements according to Art. 1.5.3.5 to be entitled to start at the JWCH.

The following entry regulations apply to specific competitions at the JWCH:

12.6.2.2 Individual and Sprint Competitions

A maximum of four competitors per NF may be entered for both, junior men and junior women category. Additionally, the NFs of the Individual and Sprint champions in the previous year's JWCH will be granted the right to enter them at the JWCH Individual and Sprint competitions in addition to their NF's quota. The Pursuit or Mass Start Champion of the previous year's JWCH may enter additionally in the Sprint competition, however, the NF's quota for the Sprint competition may not exceed five (5) and as long as the respective competitors are still eligible to compete in the JWCH.

12.6.2.3 Pursuit Competitions

For junior men and junior women, the top 60 competitors of the qualifying competitions will be entered.

12.6.2.4 Mass Start 60 Competitions

The Mass Start 60 competition entries will consist of the top 60 competitors of the event and will be filled in, in rank order from the points they have acquired at the current JWCH event using the JWCH Nations ranking point system acc. to Art. 12.9. Points are added together. In case competitors are tied, the one with the best single result from that event will be ranked ahead. If still tied, the athlete with the second-best single result will be ranked ahead. Start numbers will be assigned in the order as follows: the gold medalist of the first personal competition of the JWCH will receive start number 1; the gold medalist of the second personal competition will receive number 2, with the silver medalists of the personal competition receiving start numbers in the same order beginning with start number 3-4, and bronze medalists in the same way beginning with start number 5-6. The remaining start numbers will be assigned in rank order from the points scored at the current event using the JWCH Nations ranking point system, and if less than 60 athletes earn points at the current event, the field will be filled with the athletes having the best single result from the event with the same tie breaker as above. Five (5) competitors will be the maximum number of entries allowed by any NF.

12.6.2.5 Relay/Mixed Relay and Single Mixed Relay Teams at JWCH

The maximum number of relays/mixed relays/single mixed relays is 30. Each NF that has been ranked at the previous JWCH has the right to start in the respective category and sex, and start numbers are assigned in rank order from the previous JWCH Nations ranking. If a team is missing or not entered, all teams below it will move up a number correspondingly. If there are still free start positions, they may be filled by unranked NFs, up to a maximum of 30 relay teams. The unranked teams allocated to these remaining spots, as well as their start positions, will be determined by a simple draw.

For the Mixed Relay and Single Mixed Relay, a combined Junior Men/Junior Women Nations ranking is applied. Any remaining free positions will be allocated in the same way as described above.

12.6.2.6 Team Staff (WCH and JWCH)

Article 1.6.1.1 g will apply accordingly.

12.7 Awards

12.7.1 Official Medals (WCH and JWCH)

Competitors placed first, second and third in the Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start competitions will be awarded the IBU medal in gold, silver and bronze, respectively. Each member of the relay teams placed first, second and third will be awarded the IBU gold, silver or bronze medal, respectively. IBU medals will only be given for competitions where three or more competitors or relay teams are competing.

12.7.1.1 Medal Ceremony

The presentation of the official World Championships medals must include flag raising and national anthems. Competitors may not appear with competition materials/equipment. An exception applies to the procedure at the JWCH and SB WCH especially if four (4) competitions are held on the event´s final day and the ceremonies are held in the stadium immediately after the competitions. In such cases, or when agreed with IBU RD, medal and flower ceremonies can be combined and therefore competition equipment is allowed.

12.7.1.2 Flower Ceremony

The flower ceremony is the TV presentation of the top 6 competitors and top 3 relay teams immediately after the end of the competition. The competitors must appear wearing their competition start numbers, and may have with them their competition materials/equipment. At the JWCH the top 6 competitors and top 3 relay teams will be awarded.

12.8 Leader Start Numbers (WCH)

The defending Champions of the previous World Championships in the respective single competition format will wear a designated golden start number during the World Championships instead of a conventional start number.

Additional leader bibs might be worn based on contractual obligations upon decision of the IBU EB.

12.9 JWCH Nations ranking

At the JWCH, a separate Nations ranking will be established. JWCH Nations ranking points are awarded separately for men and women. At the Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification (if applicable) competitions, the following points are awarded:

1st place	160 points	2nd place	154 points
3rd place	148 points	4th place	143 points
5th place	140 points	6th place	138 points
7th place	136 points	8th place	134 points
9th place	132 points	10th place	131 points
and then decreasing by one point down to 80th place and then decreasing by 2 points thereafter with one point awarded for 110th place and higher.			

The NFs' best three competitors earn Nations ranking points. The sum of these points will become the NF's JWCH Nations ranking.

13. THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES – EVENT RULES

13.1 Rules

The IOC has jurisdiction over the OWG; however, these Event and Competition Rules will apply to the OWG unless otherwise specified below or by IOC regulations.

13.2 Venue Access for NF Teams

All NF Teams must be allowed access to the venue for 10 days in February the year before the Games and for 10 days each in December and January in the season of the Games. The courses must be groomed daily.

13.3 Schedule and Program

The event schedule and program for the competitions will be established by the OC in consultation with the RD/TD. The schedule and program must be submitted to the TC for review and must be approved by the IBU EB.

13.4 National Federation Quota

The NF Registration and Entry Quota for the OWG is based on:

a. the NF's ranking in the World Cup Nations Cup from the season before the OWG;

b. the IBU Qualifying Points list (after the last qualifying event);

c. the Host Nation Quota.

The final quota/qualification system is determined by agreement between the IOC and IBU EB.

13.4.1 Mass Start Competition

The Mass Start competition entries consist of 30 competitors, determined as follows: the top 15 from the current WC Total Score plus any medal winners that are not among the top 15 in the WC Total Score. The remaining competitors will be filled in rank order from the points they have earned in the Individual, Sprint and Pursuit competitions at the OWG. The points are distributed using the same system as for the WC. In case competitors are tied, the one with the best single result in the current OWG will be ranked ahead. If still tied the one with the best current WC Total Score and if still tied the athlete with less IBU Qualifying points will be ranked ahead. Start numbers will be assigned in the order as follows: the gold medalist of the first personal competition of the OWG will receive start number 1; the gold medalist of the second personal competition will receive number 2; and the gold medalist of the third personal competition will receive number 3, with the silver medalists of the personal competition receiving start numbers in the same order beginning with start number 4–6, and bronze medalists in the same way beginning with start number 7–9. The top competitors in the current WC Total Score will receive start number 10, and so on. If a competitor has won more than one medal in the personal competitions at the OWG being held, he will receive the lowest start number in keeping with the above sequence, and other competitors will move up in the same order. The same principle will apply if more than one competitor wins multiple medals, or if one or more competitors are missing. Four competitors will be the maximum number of entries allowed by any NF. However, if an NF has more than four medalists, then all medalists from that NF will be entitled to start.

13.5 Team Areas and Facilities

13.5.1 Ski Preparation Areas

In or very near the stadium area, there must be a sufficient number of permanent buildings or good-quality temporary facilities in which teams may store materials/equipment and wax skis. These rooms or cabins must be provided with lights, electric power outlets and adequate ventilation for removing wax fumes, and must be warmed to at least 20 degrees Celsius.

Each NF/NOC must have its own wax cabin for at least 12 sq m, whilst NFs/NOCs with a total of eight or more competitors entered to start must be given two wax cabins or one very large cabin, unless they have a wax truck at the venue.

The cabins should be equipped with locking doors and teams are to be issued with corresponding keys. If the entrances cannot be locked, the OC must provide security for the cabins.

13.5.2 Parking Areas

Parking space for team vehicles, ski preparation trucks and/or ski grinding machine containers must be provided within reasonable walking distance of the cabins.

13.5.3 Changing Room/Cabin

Each NF/NOC with three or more competitors must be provided a changing room or cabin of sufficient space to meet the needs of the team size. Those NFs/NOCs with less than three athletes may share a changing room/cabin with one other NF/NOC.

13.5.4 Athlete and Team Staff Lounge

The OC must provide an athlete and team staff lounge at the venue, with sufficient food and beverage services at meal times and a snack service between meal times, beginning two hours before all scheduled training (both official and general training) and competitions, and closing one and a half hours after the conclusion of the last scheduled training or competition of that day.

14. REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL EVENTS – EVENT RULES

14.1 Regional Cups and Regional Championships

14.1.1 General

Regional events are IBU events that are organized under its jurisdiction jointly and essentially for juniors and youths categories, at which the IBU classes and competition specification rules apply. At the eligible events, IBU Qualifying Points may be awarded according to ECR 1.5.3.6. The events are organized according the current regional structure and related criteria, which can be downloaded on www.biathlonworld.com.

14.1.2 Competition Types

All appropriate IBU-related competition types are authorized at a regional event.

14.1.3 Eligibility and Participation

Competitors from IBU member NFs (full/provisional) of the respective region as defined in the current regional structure will be eligible to participate. Participation quotas are defined in the related Guidelines, which can be downloaded on www.biathlonworld.com.

14.1.4 Competition Rules

Specific Regional Event Rules are mentioned in the related Guidelines, as mentioned under Art. 14.1.1 above.

14.1.5 Awards

Any awards are either part of the related Guidelines or handled by each region.

14.2 Continental Cups and Continental Championships

14.2.1 General

Continental Cups and Continental Championships are IBU events. Generally, they can be conducted as a regional event as in Art. 14.1 or as separately dedicated Cup/Championships if the participating NFs of that region represent the whole continent. All procedures and rules of Art. 14.1 apply; official IBU medals are awarded. This article does not cover the OECH and JOECH, which are ruled in detail in ECR Art. 17 and 18.

14.3 Event Hosting Applications and Appointment of NFs

Each IBU (full) member NF may apply to organize one or more Regional Event(s) and/or Continental Cup(s) for their respective region per season in their country. The same applies for one Continental Championships per season. Applications must be submitted to the IBU by 15 June for events in the coming summer and by 15 September for events in the coming winter.

15. WORLD CUP – EVENT RULES

15.1 General

15.1.1 Jurisdiction

WCs are IBU events and are held under its jurisdiction for men and women. These rules apply to WC events.

15.1.2 Best biathletes – Financial Responsibility and Selection

IBU will pay for the accommodation and meal expenses for the best 25 male and the best 25 female biathletes for a maximum of seven nights incl. full board for a three-competition WC event and five nights incl. full board for a two-competition WC event according to the valid rates (EB decision) for B-category accommodation (double room). The best biathletes for the current competition season up to the end of December will be selected from the top rankings in the previous year's World Cup Total Score. For the part of the season beginning on 1 January, the selection will be from the top rankings in the World Cup Total Score as of the end of December. For the part of the season beginning on 1 February, the selection will be from the top rankings in the World Cup Total Score as of the end of January and will continue on that basis for the remainder of the season.

15.2 WC Annual Scheduling

15.2.1 Number of WCs per Season

The number of events to be held will be determined by the IBU EB based on the recommendation of the TC.

15.2.2 WC Annual Calendar

WC events will be held prior to and after the annual WCH or the OWG. They are to be held in the time frame set by the IBU EB.

15.3 Bids to Host an Event and Appointment of Hosts

15.3.1 Authority to Appoint

Hosts of WC events will be appointed by the IBU EB, based on a recommendation by the IBU TC.

15.3.2 Applications to Host WC Events

Applications for hosting WC events must be submitted by the applying NFs to the IBU headquarters before the deadline set by the IBU EB. An IBU A license is required to apply. Applications must be submitted to the IBU headquarters using the official IBU application form and must be signed by the President or SG of the NF.

15.3.2.1 A NF may apply to organize one or more WC events during a competition season. In most cases, a NF may organize only one WC event per season.

15.3.3 The IBU Event Hosting Declaration

The hosting NF must sign the IBU Event Hosting Declaration, thereby testifying that it accepts and will fulfill, in the required time, the tasks, measures and duties stipulated in the Declaration.

15.4 WC Program

The program for a WC event will be set by the IBU EB in consultation with the event host, the broadcasting company with which the IBU has entered a contractual agreement for TV distribution and the TC, as soon as possible.

15.5 Invitations

Invitations to WC events must be approved by the RD and must be sent by the OC to all IBU NFs and the IBU headquarters not later than three months before the start of the event. The invitation may be sent electronically by e-mail or by posting it on a website with notification by e-mail.

15.6 Participation

15.6.1 Registration and Entry Quotas

NFs may participate with the following quota of male and female competitors respectively at World Cup event Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, based on the NF's ranking in the previous season's World Cup Nations Cup score final standings:

NATION CUP RANK	REGISTER	START	TOTAL REGISTERED	TOTAL START
1 – 5	8	6	40	30
6 – 10	7	5	35	25
11 – 17	6	4	42	28
18 – 23	5	3	30	18
24 – 25	4	2	8	4
NF Wild Cards (total 8)*	1	1	8	8
			163	113

* Maximum 2 athletes per NF

15.6.2 Wild Cards

a. Wild Card Definition and Purpose: In addition to the quota for NFs stated above, eight NF wild cards granting a World Cup start quota for one competitor will be given to the NFs that do not have a World Cup quota. Wild cards are limited to two per NF per sex and are valid for a single trimester.

b. Eligible NFs: The top eight athletes on the IBU qualifying points list from a NF not already having a quota in the WC earn a WC start quota of one for their respective NF. The IBU qualifying points list will be updated after each trimester, or as scheduled and announced annually by the IBU EB. After each update at a trimester end the NFs earning a wild card quota will be allowed to register and start the qualified athletes for the following trimester, or until the next update as scheduled and announced by the IBU EB. Such earned wild cards must be confirmed by the earning NF for the following trimester within 3 days after the IBU qualifying point list which is the basis for allocation was published. If not confirmed, the respective wild card will be re-allocated to the next NF.

c. Each athlete who starts in the WC (including NF wild card athletes) will receive Nations Cup points and WC points, and will be listed in all competition results and point rankings.

15.6.3 Additional Start Rights at WC

a. At the World Cup Final, the Junior competitor with the highest number of points earned at the current season's Junior World Championships will receive an additional personal start quota, if his/her NF intends to register this athlete for the event. Such Juniors results in Sprint or Individual competitions at the World Cup final shall not have any negative effect on the qualification for a possible start at World Cups or IBU Cups of the next season.

b. At the World Cup Final, NFs are allowed to enter competitors in addition to the quota based on how many competitors they have ranked in the top 10 of the IBU Cup Total Score final standings, up to a maximum of two per NF. The NF is free to use these additional entries for any qualified competitor. The NFs with the winner of the IBU Cup Total Score for men and women will also receive additional funding from the IBU for the winner's participation at the World Cup Final.

c. For the first two World Cup events (WC1 and WC2) of the following season, the winner of the IBU Cup Total Score (M+W) earns an additional NF start quota that can be used by the NF for any qualified athlete, unless an additional quota is already used as of 15.6.3.d

d. For the first two World Cup events (WC1 and WC2) of the following season, the winner of the WC Total Score (M+W) earns a personal start quota

e. NFs with an additional start right according to 15.6.3.c–d may register one additional athlete on top of their standard quota (as defined in 15.6.1) to ensure a reserve athlete is available.

15.6.4 Pursuit Competitions

The top 60 competitors from the qualifying competition will be entitled to start in the Pursuit competition.

15.6.5 Mass Start Competitions

15.6.5.1 Mass Start

The Mass Start competition entries will consist of the top 20 competitors in the current WC Total Score and the remaining competitors will be filled in, in rank order from the points they have acquired at the current WC event. In case competitors are tied, the one with the best single result from that event will be ranked ahead. If still tied the one with the best current WC Total Score and if still tied the athlete with less IBU Qualifying points will be ranked ahead. Start numbers will be assigned based on the list standings – with the top-ranking competitor receiving number 1, the second number 2, and so on. The final remaining start numbers will be assigned in rank order from the WC Points scored at the current event.

15.6.5.2 Mass Start 60

The Mass Start 60 competition entries will consist of the top 25 competitors in the current WC Total Score and the remaining 35 competitors will be filled in, in rank order from the points they have acquired at the current WC event using the Nation Cup point system. In case competitors are tied, the one with the best single result from that event will be ranked ahead. If still tied the one with the best current WC Total Score and if still tied the athlete with less IBU Qualifying points will be ranked ahead. If competitors are absent from the top 25, they will be filled in from the current WC Total Score list in rank order. Start numbers will be assigned based on the list standings – with the top-ranking competitor receiving number 1, the second number 2, and so on. The final 35 start numbers will be assigned in rank order from the points scored at the current event using the NC point system with the same tie breaker as above.

15.6.6 Relays

15.6.6.1 At WC events with relays, in principle all NFs having a start right may register the minimum number of athletes required to compete in the relay provided all the athletes meet the qualification requirements for the WC. This rule also applies to mixed relays and single mixed relays provided the NFs have both men and women with a start right for the WC. The affected NF teams are therefore allowed to register a maximum of four (4) for Relay competitions, two (2) per sex for Mixed Relay competitions and three (3) per sex when the Mixed Relay and Single Mixed Relay competitions are held at the same WC event.

15.6.6.2 A maximum of 30 relays may compete in WC Relay, Mixed Relay or Single Mixed Relay Competitions, based on the current WC Nations Cup score.

15.7 Special Start Numbers, Flower Ceremony

15.7.1 General

Men and women competitors who are ranked the best in the Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start and Super Sprint competitions in the current World Cup score and in the WC Total Score must wear a World Cup Leader start number during the competition. This applies also for the “Under 23 Award” leader.

15.7.2 Special Start Numbers

The special start numbers will be colored as follows:

a. WC Total Score leaders – yellow;

b. Each Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start, Super Sprint leader – red;

c. "Under 23 Award" leader – dark blue;

d. Competitors fulfilling more than one criteria of a. – c. will wear a combined colored bib.

Any advertising on the special start numbers will be fully under IBU jurisdiction.

15.7.3 Provision of Leader Start Numbers

The World Cup leader start numbers will be provided by the IBU and will be brought to WC events as organized by the IBU.

15.7.4 Flower Ceremony

The flower ceremony is the TV presentation of the top 6 competitors and top 3 relay teams immediately after the end of the competition. Competitors must appear wearing their competition start numbers and may have with them their competition materials/equipment.

15.8 World Cup Scoring System

15.8.1 General

A scoring system will be used to reflect the competition performance of competitors, relay teams and NFs throughout each WC competition season. Those competitors who have attained the highest final scores of the season will be the winners.

15.8.1.1 Types of Scores

The following types of scores are used:

a. World Cup Total Score;

b. World Cup Individual Score (Individuals and Short Individuals);

c. World Cup Sprint Score;

d. World Cup Super Sprint Score

e. World Cup Pursuit Score;

f. World Cup Mass Start Score (Mass Starts and Mass Start 60s);

g. World Cup Relay Score;

h. World Cup Mixed Relay Score (Mixed Relays and Single Mixed Relays);

i. World Cup Nations Cup Score.

15.8.2 Awarding Points

There are two kinds of points awarded at WC competitions: World Cup points and Nations Cup points. They are awarded as follows:

15.8.2.1 World Cup Discipline Points

At each WC Individual, Short Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start 60, Relay and Mixed Relay competitions, points will be awarded for each discipline as follows:

1st place	90 points	2nd place	75 points
3rd place	65 points	4th place	55 points
5th place	50 points	6th place	45 points
7th place	41 points	8th place	37 points
9th place	34 points	10th place	31 points
further decreasing by one down to 40th place (1 point).			

For Mass Start and Super Sprint competitions WC points will be awarded as follows:

1st place	90 points	2nd place	75 points
3rd place	65 points	4th place	55 points
5th place	50 points	6th place	45 points
7th place	41 points	8th place	37 points
9th place	34 points	10th place	31 points
further decreasing by one down to 21st place (20 points) and then decreasing by two points down to 30th place (2 points).			

For athletes in the Super Sprint final: DNS, DNF, LAP, DSQ -> no rank and no points will be awarded.

15.8.2.2 World Cup Nations Cup Points

World Cup Nations Cup points are awarded separately for men and women. At each WC and WCH Individual, Short Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, the following points are awarded:

1st place	160 points	2nd place	154 points
3rd place	148 points	4th place	143 points
5th place	140 points	6th place	138 points
7th place	136 points	8th place	134 points
9th place	132 points	10th place	131 points
and then decreasing by one point down to 80th place and then decreasing by 2 points thereafter with one point awarded for 110th place and higher.			

For Relays at each WCH and WC Relay competition the following Nations Cup points will be awarded:

1st place	420 points	2nd place	390 points	3rd place	360 points
4th place	330 points	5th place	310 points	6th place	290 points
7th place	270 points	8th place	250 points	9th place	230 points
10th place	220 points	11th place	210 points	12th place	200 points
13th place	190 points	14th place	180 points	15th place	170 points
16th place	160 points	17th place	150 points	18th place	140 points
19th place	130 points	20th place	120 points	21st place	110 points
22nd place	100 points	23rd place	90 points	24th place	80 points
25th place	70 points	26th place	60 points	27th place	50 points
28th place	40 points	29th place	30 points	30th place	20 points

For the Mixed Relay and the Single Mixed Relay, half the Relay Nations Cup points will be awarded to each sex.

15.8.3 Criteria

15.8.3.1 World Cup Total, Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start, Relay and Mixed Relay Scores

Scoring will be based on the Individual, Short Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start, Relay and Mixed Relay competitions at the WC events of that season.

15.8.3.2 World Cup Nations Cup Score

Scoring of the Nations Cup will be based on all of the WC and WCH Individual, Short Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint Qualification, Mixed Relay and Relay competitions of that season.

15.8.4 Calculation

15.8.4.1 World Cup Total Score

For all competitors, the World Cup Total Score will be based on the Individual, Short Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start competitions. The scores from all competitions will be added together and the sum will be the WC Total Score.

15.8.4.2 World Cup Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Starts Relay and Mixed Relay Scores

The WC score of each of the types of competitions will be calculated the same way by adding together the scores of all the competitions of each type. A minimum of two competitions must be scored in a single season for a cup to be awarded.

15.8.4.3 World Cup Nations Cup Score

The NFs' best three competitors earn Nations Cup points in Individual, Short Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions. The sum of these points will become the NF's Nations Cup score for that competition. The Relay and applicable Mixed Relay Nations Cup points will be added to those from the Individual, Short Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification; the ranking of the cumulative sum of all the scored events in the current season will become the respective NF's ranking.

15.8.5 Breaking of Ties in Standings

If there is an equal number of points in any standings during or at the end of the season, the best-placed competitor or NF will be the one who won more first places, and if there is still a tie, who won the most second places, etc. If, after following this procedure, the tie cannot be broken, a tie will be declared. In case of a tie in the WC Total Score after the last competition, this rule shall not apply, but two cups shall be awarded.

15.8.6 World Cup Score

15.8.6.1 Current Standings

After each WC competition, the OC of the event must ensure that a World Cup current standing list containing the results of that and the preceding competitions is compiled and distributed to each participating NF.

15.8.6.2 Final Score

The OC of the World Cup Final must ensure that a final list of all the World Cup and Nations Cup scores is compiled.

15.9 Awards

15.9.1 General

World Cup trophies will be awarded at the end of the competition season based on the World Cup score final standings.

15.9.2 Award Categories

The World Cup trophies will be awarded to:

a. the man and woman placed first in the World Cup Total Score;

b. the man and woman placed first in the World Cup Individual Score;

c. the man and woman placed first in the World Cup Sprint Score;

d. the man and woman placed first in the World Cup Super Sprint Score;

e. the woman and man placed first in the World Cup Pursuit Score;

f. the woman and man placed first in the World Cup Mass Start Score;

g. the NFs placed first in the men's and women's World Cup Relay Score;

h. the NFs placed first in the World Cup Mixed Relay Score;

i. the NFs placed first in the women's and men's World Cup Nations Scores.

15.9.3 Right to Retain Trophies

World Cup trophies may be retained as follows:

a. The World Cup trophies awarded for the WC total, Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Starts scores will become the property of the winners.

b. The World Cup trophies awarded for the World Cup Relay, Mixed Relay and Nations Cup score will become the property of that NF.

15.9.4 Provision of Trophies

The World Cup trophies will be provided by and at the expense of the IBU.

15.9.5 Other Prizes

OCs and other bodies may present other prizes.

15.9.6 Prize Money

Prize money is permitted in amounts as directed by the IBU EB.

16. IBU CUP – EVENT RULES

16.1 General

Competitors who meet the requirements according to Art. 1.5.3.4 are eligible to compete at the IBU Cup.

The number of IBU Cup events in each competition season will be set by the IBU Executive Board upon the recommendation of the TC. The TC will make recommendations to the EB. The EB will decide how many and what types of competitions will be organized at an event. IBU Cup points will be awarded at the OECH.

16.2 Registration and Entry Quotas

NFs may participate with the following quota of male and female competitors respectively at IBU Cup event Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, based on the NF's ranking in the previous season's IBU Cup Nations Cup score final standings:

IBU CUP RANKING	REGISTER	START	MAXIMUM ON START
1 to 5	8	6	30
6 to 10	7	5	25
11 to 20	6	4	40
21 and above	5	3	(60)
			Total 155

16.2.1 IBU Cup for non-European Countries:

All non-European NFs will have an IBU Cup start quota of 4 (four) and may register 6 (six), unless they are entitled to more according to Art. 16.2 above.

16.3 Competitors and Entries

The Host NF may register 8 (eight) and start 6 (six) per sex. All entered competitors will be eligible to earn IBU Cup points.

16.4 Scoring

At IBU Cups and the OECH, IBU Cup points are awarded.

16.4.1 IBU Cup Discipline Points

At the OECH and IBU Cup Individual, Short Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start 60 competitions, points will be awarded for each discipline as follows:

1st place	90 points	2nd place	75 points
3rd place	65 points	4th place	55 points
5th place	50 points	6th place	45 points
7th place	41 points	8th place	37 points
9th place	34 points	10th place	31 points
further decreasing by one down to 40th place (1 point).			

At Mass Start and Super Sprint competitions, IBU Cup points will be awarded as follows:

1st place	90 points	2nd place	75 points
3rd place	65 points	4th place	55 points
5th place	50 points	6th place	45 points
7th place	41 points	8th place	37 points
9th place	34 points	10th place	31 points
further decreasing by one down to 21st place (20 points) and then decreasing by two points down to 30th place (2 points).			

For athletes in the Super Sprint final: DNS, DNF, LAP, DSQ -> no rank and no points will be awarded.

16.4.2 IBU Cup Nations Cup Points

IBU Cup Nations Cup points are awarded separately for men and women. At each OECH and IBU Cup Individual, Short Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions, the following points are awarded:

1st place	160 points	2nd place	154 points
3rd place	148 points	4th place	143 points
5th place	140 points	6th place	138 points
7th place	136 points	8th place	134 points
9th place	132 points	10th place	131 points
and then decreasing by one point down to 80th place and then decreasing by 2 points thereafter with one point awarded for 110th place and higher.			

At each OECH and IBU Cup Relay competition, the following IBU Cup Nations Cup points will be awarded:

1st place	420 points	2nd place	390 points	3rd place	360 points
4th place	330 points	5th place	310 points	6th place	290 points
7th place	270 points	8th place	250 points	9th place	230 points
10th place	220 points	11th place	210 points	12th place	200 points
13th place	190 points	14th place	180 points	15th place	170 points
16th place	160 points	17th place	150 points	18th place	140 points
19th place	130 points	20th place	120 points	21st place	110 points
22nd place	100 points	23rd place	90 points	24th place	80 points
25th place	70 points	26th place	60 points	27th place	50 points
28th place	40 points	29th place	30 points	30th place	20 points

For the Mixed Relay and the Single Mixed Relay, half the Relay Nations Cup points will be awarded to each sex.

16.4.3 Men and women competitors who are ranked the best in the IBU Cup Total Score must wear a colored IBU Cup Leader start number during the competition. The leader start numbers will be provided by the IBU and will be brought to events as organized by the IBU.

16.5 Types of Scoring

The following types of scoring are used for men and women:

a. IBU Cup Total Score;

b. IBU Cup Individual Score (Individuals and Short Individuals);

c. IBU Cup Sprint Score;

d. IBU Cup Super Sprint Score;

e. IBU Cup Pursuit Score;

f. IBU Cup Mass Start Score (Mass Starts and Mass Start 60s);

g. IBU Cup Relay Score (including all types of relays);

h. IBU Cup Nations Cup Score.

16.5.1 Calculation

16.5.1.1 IBU Cup Total Score

For all competitors, the IBU Cup Total Score will be based on the Individual, Short Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit, and Mass Start competitions. The scores from all OECH and IBU Cup competitions will be added together, giving the IBU Cup Total Score.

16.5.1.2 IBU Cup Individual, Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start and Relay Score

The IBU Cup score of each of the types of competitions will be calculated the same way by adding together the scores of all the competitions of each type. A minimum of two competitions must be scored in a single season for a Cup to be awarded.

16.5.1.3 IBU Cup Nations Cup Score

The NFs' best three competitors earn IBU Cup Nations Cup points in Individual, Short Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions at the OECH and the IBU Cup. The Relay and applicable Mixed Relays Nations Cup points will be added to those from the Individual, Short Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification; the ranking of the cumulative sum will become the respective NF's ranking.

16.5.1.4 Breaking of Ties in Standings

If there is an equal number of points in any standings during or at the end of the season, the best-placed competitor or NF will be the one who won more first places, and if there is still a tie, who won the most second places, etc. If, after following this procedure, the tie cannot be broken, a tie will be declared. In case of a tie in the IBU Cup Total Score after the last competition, this rule shall not apply, but two cups shall be awarded.

16.6 Awards

16.6.1 The competitors placed first in the competitions listed under Art. 16.5 a–i will be awarded an IBU Cup Trophy.

16.6.2 The IBU Cup Trophies will be paid by the IBU.

16.7 Competition Rules

16.7.1 Scope

The IBU Event and Competition Rules apply to IBU Cup events; however, exceptions may be stipulated.

16.8 Mass Start Competitions

16.8.1 Mass Start

The Mass Start competition entries will consist of the top 15 competitors in the current IBU Cup Total Score and the remaining competitors will be filled in, in rank order from the points they have acquired at the current IBU Cup event. In case competitors are tied, the one with the best single result from that event will be ranked ahead. If still tied the one with the best current IBU Cup Total Score and if still tied the athlete with less IBU Qualifying points will be ranked ahead. Start numbers will be assigned based on the list standings – with the top-ranking competitor receiving number 1, the second number 2, and so on. The final remaining start numbers will be assigned in rank order from the IBU Cup Points scored at the current event.

16.8.2 Mass Start 60

The Mass Start 60 competition entries will consist of the top 15 competitors in the current IBU Cup Total Score and the remaining 45 competitors will be filled in, in rank order from the points they have acquired at the current IBU Cup event using the Nation Cup point system. In case competitors are tied, the one with the best single result from that event will be ranked ahead. If still tied the one with the best current IBU Cup Total Score and if still tied the athlete with less IBU Qualifying points will be ranked ahead. Start numbers will be assigned based on the list standings – with the top-ranking competitor receiving number 1, the second number 2, and so on. The final remaining start numbers will be assigned in rank order from the points scored at the current event using the NC point system with the same tie breaker as above.

16.9 Relay/Mixed Relay Teams at IBU Cup

Each NF is allowed to enter one team. No draw will be made for the Relay, and start numbers will be assigned based on the NF's current men's or women's IBU Cup Nations Cup score respectively, with the start numbers assigned in rank order. For the Mixed Relays, start numbers will be assigned based on the sum of the NF's current men's and women's IBU Cup Nations Cup score, with the start numbers assigned in rank order. If a team is missing or not entered, all teams below it will move up a number correspondingly.

During trimester 1 of each season, the respective final NC Score of the previous season will apply – for both Relay and Mixed Relay start orders.

The assigned Relay/Mixed Relay/Single Mixed Relay start number will be each team's start position for the simultaneous start and their shooting lane number on the range for zeroing and for the first bout of shooting only.

A maximum of 30 relays may compete in IBU Cup Relay, Mixed Relay or Single Mixed Relay competitions, based on the current IBU Cup Nations Cup score. In case there are more than 30 relay teams, the best teams from the respective NC Scores are qualified in rank order. If there are still free start positions, these can be filled up with unranked NFs; their start position will be determined by a simple jury draw

17. OPEN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (OECH) – EVENT RULES

17.1 Jurisdiction and Terms

The OECH is an IBU event and is held under its jurisdiction for men and women. IBU Cup points will be awarded at the OECH.

17.1.1 Scope

The IBU Event and Competition Rules will apply to the OECH.

17.2 Eligibility

Competitors who meet the requirements according to Art. 1.5.3.4 are eligible to compete at the OECH.

17.3 Participants, Registration and Entry

Competitors must be members of an IBU NF. All NFs of the IBU may register and enter competitors according to the IBU Cup registration and entry quota as of ECR 16.2. For Non-European countries, Art. 16.2.1 applies. Each NF may enter one relay team per class in the relay competition. The 60 best competitors from each class in the qualification competition will be eligible to start in the Pursuit and/or Mass Start 60 competition.

IBU CUP RANKING	REGISTER	START	MAXIMUM ON START
1 to 5	8	6	30
6 to 10	7	5	25
11 to 20	6	4	40
21 and above	5	3	(60)
			Total 155

17.3.1 Additional Start Rights

Additionally, the NFs of the Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start and Super Sprint champions of the last year OECH may enter those competitors at the OECH Individual, Sprint, Mass Start and Super Sprint competitions respectively, in addition to their NF's quota. The Pursuit Champion of the last year OECH may enter additionally in the Sprint competition, however, the NF's quota for the Sprint competition may not exceed seven (7) per NF.

17.3.2 For the entries of the OECH Mass Start competitions, Art. 16.8 applies accordingly. In addition, the respective athlete will receive start number 30/60 unless she/he has been already selected (in acc. with Art. 12.6.1.3)

17.3.3 Relay Competitions

The best 30 NFs (women's and men's results) may enter relay teams based on the NF's current women's and men's IBU Cup Nations Cup score. If any of the top 30 ranked teams are not entered, the next ranked teams may enter.

17.3.4 Mixed Relay Competitions

A maximum of 30 Mixed Relay teams will be allowed to participate (one per NF), based on the sum of the NF's current women's and men's IBU Cup Nations Cup scores. If any of the top 30 ranked teams are not entered, the next ranked teams may enter.

17.4 Event Schedule and Program

The proposed event schedule and program will be established by the IBU in consultation with the OC at least one year prior to the start of the event.

If any IBU competition scheduled for the OECH for whatever reason cannot be held as planned, the EB may reassign it to another event in the same season.

17.5 Awards

The rules for WCH events under Art. 12.7 will apply accordingly.

18. IBU JUNIOR CUP – EVENT RULES

18.1 General

The IBU Junior Cup is an IBU competition series for junior-class competitors. Youth-class athletes may compete if they meet the requirements according to Art. 1.5.3.5.

18.2 Events and Competitions

All IBU member federations may apply to host IBU Junior Cup events.

Venues with an IBU License are preferred, but a license is not required. The IBU EB will schedule IBU Junior Cup events for each season based on recommendations from the IBU TC.

18.3 Competitors and Entry

Each IBU member federation may register and enter five (5) female and five (5) male athletes. The host nation and those nations who ended the previous season ranked in the top 10 in the Nations Cup score of either WC or IBU Cup may enter an additional two (2) male and two (2) female athletes.

18.3.1 Relay/Mixed Relay and Single Mixed Relay Teams at IBU Junior Cup

The maximum number of relays/mixed relays/single mixed relays is 30.

Each NF that has been ranked at the previous JWCH has the right to start in the respective category and sex, and start numbers are assigned in rank order from the previous JWCH Nations ranking. If a team is missing or not entered, all teams below it will move up a number correspondingly.

If there are still free start positions, they may be filled by unranked NFs, up to a maximum of 30 relay teams. The unranked teams allocated to these remaining spots, as well as their start positions, will be determined by a simple draw.

For the Mixed Relay and Single Mixed Relay, a combined Junior Men/Junior Women Nations ranking is applied. Any remaining free positions will be allocated in the same way as described above.

18.3.2 Mass Start 60 at IBU Junior Cup

The Mass Start 60 competition entries will consist of the top 60 competitors of the event and will be filled in, in rank order from the points they have acquired at the current event using the JWCH Nations ranking point system. In case competitors are tied, the one with the best single result from that event will be ranked ahead. If still tied, the athlete with the second-best single result will be ranked ahead. Start numbers will be assigned in rank order from the points scored at the current event using the IBU Cup point system, and if less than 60 athletes earn points at the current event, the field will be filled with the athletes having the best single result from the event with the same tie breaker as above. Seven (7) competitors will be the maximum number of entries allowed by any NF.

18.4 Scoring

In IBU Junior Cup, no points are awarded. Consequently, there are no discipline scores and no total scores assigned, and no Nations Cup ranking is established.

18.5 Competition Rules

18.5.1 General

The IBU Event and Competition Rules apply to the IBU Junior Cup in general, except where other provisions are stated.

18.5.2 Zeroing and training

Shooting lanes for zeroing and training will be allocated according to a random draw.

19. ENTRY INTO FORCE

The IBU Event and Competition Rules were adopted by the 1998 Congress and amended by the 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2024 and 2026 Congresses. This version of the Event and Competition Rules will come into effect on 20th November 2026.