

## Development Commission

### Meeting Minutes

27./28. May 2025 in Munich, Germany

Tuesday, 27 May 2025, 13:00 – 18:00 CET

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

Wednesday, 28 May 2025, 08:00 – 12:00 CET

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

### Agenda

1. Summary of the Regional Events 2024/2025 (D. Gerasimuk, M. Savolainen)
2. Joint session with Development Commission and Technical Committee: Regional Events development and Future of Summer Biathlon WCH
3. Biathlon 4 All - discussion about the next steps of the project (D. Gerasimuk)
4. IBU Academy/Learning Suite, Rifle Safety Certificate, and Referee Education (G. Sattlecker)
5. Development Support 2024/2025 report (D. Gerasimuk)
6. Closing the competition gap - report and discussion (D. Gerasimuk)
7. Evaluation of NF's applications for the project support 2025/2026
8. Target 2030 - discussion of the directions and action plan

Minutes	
1	<p><b>Summary of Regional Events 2024/2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the Regional Event support and actions for 2024/2025 was presented.</li> <li>• In season 2024/2025, IBU supported 14 Summer Regional Events, 3 City Events and 24 Winter Regional Events. 33 Regional Events were conducted successfully.</li> <li>• New requirements for NFs/OCs with athlete registration and result management faced challenges.</li> <li>• The next steps are pilot qualification events in season 2025/2026 and official qualification events in season 2026/2027</li> <li>• The commission discussed about qualification point system for Regional Events and Junior Cup.</li> <li>• The commission discussed regions and options for open participation among them. Generally, there are challenges in some regions, e.g., CAN/USA, and countries with strong neighbours and set event calendars.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Joint session with Development Commission and Technical Committee: Regional Events development and Future of Summer Biathlon WCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting focused on the qualification point system for Junior and IBU cups.</li> <li>• The TC and DC members discussed how to handle regions with low participation, suggesting that national events could also serve as qualification events in some cases. It was agreed to review the interpretation of regional events and consider more flexible requirements for different regions, while still maintaining quality standards.</li> <li>• The meeting group discussed the implementation of the Junior Cup competition schedule. They agreed to hold Junior Cups once per trimester (January, February, March) rather than December, with the possibility of adding another competition after the Junior World Championships in March.</li> <li>• The meeting group also discussed the need to be more flexible with regional events, allowing them to customise their approach based on specific needs and budgets.</li> <li>• TC and DC members emphasised the importance of providing athletes with multiple opportunities to earn qualification points, while still maintaining a structured system. The discussion concluded with thoughts on potentially expanding Junior Cup events to other regions, such as North America and Asia, though this would require further planning and consideration.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next steps include communicating the new system to national federations and identifying potential qualification events for the upcoming season.</li> <li>• TC and DC members also discussed the possibility of organising a youth festival to replace the youth world championships, which were discontinued due to logistical challenges and potential negative effects of awarding world titles to young athletes.</li> <li>• The festival was proposed to include competitions, education components, and social activities, potentially in summer to avoid conflicts with school schedules. Some participants expressed concerns about the financial implications and logistics for smaller nations, while others emphasised the importance of providing opportunities for young athletes to stay motivated and develop internationally.</li> <li>• TC and DC members focused on the challenges and future direction of summer biathlon events, particularly the World Championships. Participants discussed the low participation rates from top nations, questioning the relevance and necessity of maintaining the "World Championship" title.</li> <li>• The outcomes from the NFs survey were presented.</li> <li>• The meeting group explored alternative approaches, such as rebranding the event or focusing on development opportunities, to increase engagement and relevance. There was general agreement on the need to strengthen summer competitions, but the specific format and focus remain open for discussion.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Biathlon 4 All - discussion about the next steps of the project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the "Biathlon for All" project was presented, highlighting its progress over two years, including investments in equipment and support for 44 nations.</li> <li>• The International Biathlon Day, which was held first time on 24th of May 2025, aims to promote biathlon globally.</li> <li>• International Biathlon Day is an important tool in the strategic plan to double the number of athletes, emphasising the importance of involving all members, including smaller nations, and developing summer biathlon.</li> <li>• IBU continues supporting the Biathlon For All Initiative and prepares for the next International Biathlon Day in May 2026</li> <li>• Consider Best Practises sharing webinar from IBD 2025</li> </ul>

4	<p><b>IBU Academy/Learning Suite, Rifle Safety Certificate and Referee Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new offers from IBU Academy were presented: the development of a safety course for athletes and coaches, and the education of international referees and technical delegates.</li> <li>• The new safety course being developed for the IBU E-learning platform "LearningSuite" will be tested for the upcoming IBU-IOC camp in Lillehammer in July. The course aims to educate athletes and coaches about rifle safety and shooting regulations, with plans to make it mandatory for athletes participating in IBU competitions from the 2026/2027 season onwards.</li> <li>• The referee education on the Learning Suite is currently updated and improved, with plans to make the referee exam online and include case studies and videos. It was agreed to focus first on building the question pool for the exam, to implement it by winter 2025/2026 and later to address the collection of case studies and additional content.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Development Support 2024/2025 Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the National Federations' support was presented, showing that 54 out of 61 eligible national federations were supported by different projects, with a total support value of 3.8 million euros.</li> <li>• The commission discussed concerns about the impact of reduced competition events (YWCHs, EJCHs) on smaller countries' funding and athlete motivation.</li> <li>• The commission agreed to continue supporting developing countries through various programs while encouraging more professional performance from national federations</li> <li>• The commission was presented with the challenges faced by national federations overusing the development program support system and proposed implementing a more structured evaluation process to ensure better use of resources.</li> <li>• The commission suggested conducting periodic calls with federations from the C and D categories to discuss project progress, provide feedback, and encourage long-term strategic planning.</li> <li>• The commission agreed on the importance of maintaining trust while ensuring responsible use of funds, with a focus on evaluating outcomes and fostering collaboration among nations.</li> <li>• The success of regional meetings held in 2022 and 2023 in fostering collaboration among national federations was recognised, and suggested to continue these efforts to address unique challenges faced by smaller federations.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The commission meeting addressed the importance of integrating para-biathlon into programs and the need for more equipment to support growing activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>IBU Academy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An update on the IBU Academy's coach education program was presented, highlighting the four-level education system and regional basic courses being implemented in various national federations.</li> <li>The gender balance in the courses was presented to DC members, noting a strong presence of women in basic and first-level courses.</li> <li>Plans for a new kids' coach course, set to be available by the end of the year, and a para coach course, set to be available in spring 2026, were announced.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Closing the competition gap - report and discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The closing the gap project status was presented. The interviews for new participants are ongoing.</li> <li>The commission members were introduced to various development programs and initiatives supported by IBU, including the 3rd Mentorship program.</li> <li>The commission was presented with an update on the executive training program, highlighting the diverse group of candidates and the need to adapt the program to challenge them more. The program's structure includes in-person meetings, leadership training and mentorship opportunities.</li> <li>The importance of empowering national federations and closing the competition gap by focusing on youth development and strategic planning was emphasized. The commission members discussed potential initiatives to support smaller federations, including regional training camps, expert networks, and strategic planning toolkits.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Evaluation of NF's applications for the project support 2025/2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The commission was presented with an overview of applications. IBU received 161 Development project applications.</li> <li>The commission agreed to maintain a 1.6 million budget, cut all weak applications, and evaluate critical ones for potential reduction. The focus was agreed to be rather on quality than categorising by nation or project type.</li> <li>The commission members discussed the need to ensure that projects demonstrate results and are used properly.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development team will provide the final proposal for development support before the EB meeting.</li> <li>• The development team will provide feedback to NFs on why applications were declined.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Target 2030 - discussion of the directions and action plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main targets of Target 2030 are: Closing the competition gap (Empowering our federations), Enhancing our events, and Innovating our future.</li> <li>• DC worked on the action plan of Target 2030, with a focus on closing the competition gap</li> <li>• DC discussed strategies to inspire more kids and youth to participate in biathlon, including the development of digital tools and virtual training hubs.</li> <li>• DC explored the potential of using artificial intelligence to support clubs and national federations.</li> <li>• TC was assigned to continue working with an action plan, with participants given one week to contribute ideas.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the Regional Events guidelines</li> <li>• Evaluate criteria for the NFs development project support</li> <li>• Consider Best Practices sharing webinar for IBD organisers</li> <li>• Consider calls with NFs beyond the scope of the Closing the competition gap project in 2026</li> <li>• Finalise the action plan for Target 2030</li> <li>• The next online meeting is TBD</li> <li>• The next physical meeting in Denmark, spring 2026</li> </ul>