

IBU RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME 2021–2022

FINAL REPORT

**VALIDITY OF AN AUTOMATED GNSS-IMU SYSTEM IN
TEMPORAL BIATHLON RANGE WORK ANALYSIS**

Miika Köykkä^{1,2}, Keijo Ruotsalainen², Sami Vierola¹, Tomi Vänttinen¹, Teemu Heikkinen²,
Olli Ohtonen², Vesa Linnamo²

¹Finnish Institute of High Performance Sport KIHU, Jyväskylä, Finland

²Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland

ABSTRACT

Previous studies among skiing sports have showed that a GNSS together with IMU sensors seem to be able to detect sport-specific events, distinguish between sub-techniques, provide cycle characteristics and within-cycle changes in speed reasonably well. These recent technological advances suggest that it could be possible to perform temporal biathlon range work analyses automatically with high precision and without interrupting the athlete. Therefore, the aim of the present study was to examine the validity of a commercial wearable wireless GNSS-IMU system in automated temporal biathlon range work analysis. A total of twelve biathletes (age 21 ± 4 years old) volunteered for the study and performed a typical biathlon range work training session using their own rifles and skiing equipment. Each biathlete skied twelve laps around the shooting range and performed six times a 5-shot set of biathlon shooting from the prone and the standing postures. All data were simultaneously collected using a wearable Naos sensor placed inside a vest on the biathlete's upper back and a high-speed video camera. The Naos sensor measured 3D location, 3D speed, 3D acceleration and 3D angular velocity using a GNSS sensor at 10 Hz, an IMU at 208 Hz and a barometer at 12.5 Hz data rate. The video camera recorded at 180 Hz (shutter speed: between 1/1300 and 1/2000; FHD: 1920 x 1080) from a location where the whole shooting range was visible. The wearable system detected all events that were obtained from the camera footage. In both shooting postures, differences between temporal parameters derived from the wearable system and camera footage were generally small. In prone shooting, minor significant differences were observed in approaching (-0.43 ± 0.37 s), shot interval (-0.003 ± 0.006 s), total shooting (-0.01 ± 0.02 s), mat off (-0.09 ± 0.17 s), leaving (0.44 ± 0.33 s), range (-0.11 ± 0.18 s) and mat (-0.10 ± 0.29 s) times (all $p < 0.01$). No difference was observed in preparing time (0.00 ± 0.25 s). In standing shooting, minor significant differences were observed in preparing (-0.20 ± 0.28 s), shot intervals (-0.007 ± 0.012 s), total shooting (-0.03 ± 0.04 s), mat off (0.07 ± 0.18 s), leaving (0.19 ± 0.29 s) and mat (-0.16 ± 0.30 s) times (all $p < 0.01$). Differences in approaching (-0.08 ± 0.36 s) and range (-0.03 ± 0.19 s) times were not significant. Good to excellent levels of agreement (ICC from 0.71 to 1.00) and strong relationships (r_s from 0.87 to 1.00, all $p < 0.001$) between the methods were observed for all temporal biathlon range work characteristics. The main finding was that the wearable system was able to detect approaching time, preparing time, shot intervals, total shooting time, mat off time, leaving time, range time and mat time with reasonable accuracy as compared to the corresponding video-derived time instants. The system can be used to collect temporal biathlon range work characteristics for coaching and research purposes with reasonable accuracy.

Keywords: *wearables, feedback, coaching, shooting, performance analysis*

1 SUMMARY

2 Overall performance in biathlon is determined by skiing speed, time spent on the shooting range
3 and number of missed targets. However, thorough elite level competition analyses looking at
4 speed variations, cycle characteristics, sub-techniques used, and detailed temporal range work
5 information are thus far lacking. Typically, coaches measure temporal biathlon range
6 characteristics in training sessions using a stopwatch. In competitions, some temporal range
7 work characteristics are automatically measured by the competition timing system, whereas
8 others are added manually by the competition staff.

9 Recent technological advances could enable such analyses automatically with high precision
10 and without interrupting the athlete. Previous studies among skiing sports have showed that a
11 GNSS together with IMU sensors seem to be able to detect sport-specific events, distinguish
12 between sub-techniques, provide cycle characteristics and within-cycle changes in speed rea-
13 sonably well. However, some metrics may not be precise, especially those related to the abso-
14 lute location of the athlete, highlighting the need for sport-specific validations. Therefore, the
15 aim of the present study was to examine the validity of a commercial wearable wireless GNSS-
16 IMU system in automated temporal biathlon range work analysis.

17 A total of twelve biathletes (age 21 ± 4 years old) volunteered for the study and performed a
18 typical biathlon range work training session using their own rifles and skiing equipment. Each
19 biathlete skied twelve laps around the shooting range and performed six times a 5-shot set of
20 biathlon shooting from the prone and the standing postures.

21 All data were simultaneously collected using a wearable Naos sensor (Archinisis, Switzerland)
22 placed inside a vest on the biathlete's upper back and a high-speed video camera (LUMIX DC-
23 GH5, Panasonic Corporation, Japan). The Naos sensor measured 3D location, 3D speed, 3D
24 acceleration and 3D angular velocity using a GNSS sensor at 10 Hz, an IMU at 208 Hz and a
25 barometer at 12.5 Hz data rate. The video camera recorded at 180 Hz (shutter speed: between
26 1/1300 and 1/2000; FHD: 1920 x 1080) from a location where the whole shooting range was
27 visible.

28 The concurrent validity of the range variables obtained from the wearable system were evalu-
29 ated by using corresponding variables obtained from the high-speed camera as the comparison.
30 The Wilcoxon signed rank-test (mean bias), mean absolute error (MAE), root mean squared
31 coefficient of variation percentage ($CV\%_{RMS}$), the two-tailed Spearman correlation (r_s) and in-
32 tra-class correlation coefficient (calculated for absolute agreement, ICC) were analyzed.

33 The wearable system detected all events that were obtained from the camera footage. In both
34 shooting postures, differences between temporal parameters derived from the wearable system
35 and camera footage were minor. In prone shooting, significant differences were observed in
36 approaching (mean bias -0.43 ± 0.37 ; MAE 0.47 ± 0.31 s; $CV\%_{RMS}$ 4.1), shot interval (-0.003
37 ± 0.006 s; 0.006 ± 0.004 s; 0.1), total shooting (-0.01 ± 0.02 s; 0.02 ± 0.01 s; 0.1), mat off ($-$
38 0.09 ± 0.17 s; 0.14 ± 0.13 s; 2.5), leaving (0.44 ± 0.33 s; 0.46 ± 0.31 s; 3.7), range (-0.11 ± 0.18
39 s; 0.17 ± 0.12 s; 0.2) and mat (-0.10 ± 0.29 s; 0.24 ± 0.20 s; 0.5) times (all $p < 0.01$). No difference
40 was observed in preparing time (0.00 ± 0.25 s; 0.19 ± 0.17 s; 0.9). In standing shooting, signif-
41 icant differences were observed in preparing (-0.20 ± 0.28 s; 0.29 ± 0.19 s; 1.4), shot intervals
42 (-0.007 ± 0.012 s; 0.009 ± 0.010 s; 0.3), total shooting (-0.03 ± 0.04 s; 0.03 ± 0.04 s; 0.2), mat
43 off (0.07 ± 0.18 s; 0.15 ± 0.11 s; 2.9), leaving (0.19 ± 0.29 s; 0.29 ± 0.18 s; 2.4) and mat (-0.16
44 ± 0.30 s; 0.28 ± 0.20 s; 0.7) times (all $p < 0.01$). Differences in approaching (-0.08 ± 0.36 s;
45 0.27 ± 0.26 s; 2.9) and range (-0.03 ± 0.19 s; 0.15 ± 0.11 s; 0.2) times were not significant.

46 Good to excellent levels of agreement (ICC from 0.71 to 1.00) and strong relationships (r_s from
47 0.87 to 1.00, all $p < 0.001$) between the methods were observed for all temporal biathlon range
48 work characteristics.

49 The main finding was that the wearable system was able to detect approaching time, preparing
50 time, shot intervals, total shooting time, mat off time, leaving time, range time and mat time
51 with reasonable accuracy as compared to the corresponding video-derived time instants. The
52 greatest differences were observed in approaching and leaving times. These could be related to
53 absolute position errors which have been also observed in previous studies. However, the ob-
54 served mean absolute errors of less than 0.5 seconds in approaching and leaving times are well
55 acceptable in biathlon training. Bland-Altman plots revealed that in standing shooting, some
56 shot intervals derived from the wearable system deviated considerably more than most from the
57 video-derived shot intervals. It is possible that obtaining shots from the camera footage using
58 the time instants when smoke came out from the rifle barrel after triggering caused some inac-
59 curacy in shot times. However, from the coaching point of view, even though these least accu-
60 rate shot intervals would be caused by an inaccurate detection by the wearable sensor, the pre-
61 cision is within an acceptable range.

62 As the wearable system was observed to be valid, it can be used in the future to collect data on
63 biathletes' race and training performance. The system provides useful information for the
64 athletes about their range work and helps coaches by collecting and storing the data
65 automatically. The information can be used to guide training prescription and follow progress.
66 It also allows for collecting a high amount of research data on biathletes' race and training
67 performance, which could help researchers to catch up with the sport enabling protocols with
68 high ecological validity in real training and competition environment. Further, as IMU sensors
69 have demonstrated promising results in postural sway assessment, development of new
70 algorithms could make it possible to use the same system e.g. for postural sway measurements
71 during competitions without interrupting the biathlete.

72 INTRODUCTION

73 Biathlon is an Olympic winter sport combining cross-country skiing and rifle shooting, where
74 overall performance is determined by skiing speed, shooting performance, and shooting time.
75 A biathlon competition consists of periods of high intensity skiing separated by short recovery
76 intervals (two or four times during the competition depending on the competition type) during
77 which shooting is performed in the prone or standing position. (IBU 2021). Shooting is
78 performed with small-bore rifles, with targets 50 m away from the shooting lane where the
79 diameter of the hit area for prone and standing shooting targets is 4.5 cm and 11.5 cm,
80 respectively. During each shooting bout in individual competitions, five shots are fired at the
81 targets.

82 Overall performance in biathlon is determined by skiing speed, time spent on the shooting range
83 and number of missed targets (Björklund et al., 2022; Björklund & Laaksonen, 2022;
84 Luchsinger et al., 2018, 2019, 2020). In the sprint competition, skiing time explains
85 approximately 60% and shooting performance almost 40% of the performance difference
86 between those finishing in the top-10 and those finishing among ranks 21-30 (Luchsinger et al.,
87 2018). In the individual competition the corresponding numbers are 50% and 50% for both,
88 probably caused by the greater penalty for each missed shot (Luchsinger et al., 2019). The
89 influence of shooting performance is high also in the pursuit competition, where it explains
90 approximately 40-50% of the race performance, increasing up to 60-70% when excluding start
91 time determined by the preceding sprint race (Luchsinger et al., 2020). Accordingly, skiing
92 speed is important for final performance in biathlon, but better shooting performance
93 discriminates the podium rank biathletes from their lower ranked counterparts (Björklund et al.,
94 2022; Björklund & Laaksonen, 2022).

95 Demands for a high-level endurance capacity are similar to that in cross-country skiing
96 (Tønnessen et al., 2015), in which males can reach values of 80 – 90 mL/kg/min (Holmberg et
97 al., 2007; Sandbakk & Holmberg, 2014; Tønnessen et al., 2015) and females exhibit 10 – 15 %
98 lower values (Sandbakk et al., 2014, 2016; Tønnessen et al., 2015). By using skate skiing
99 techniques which are used in biathlon, elite cross-country skiers can attain VO₂ values very
100 close to their VO₂max (Losnegard et al., 2013). Moreover, economy has been considered even
101 as the most discriminating factor between elite and national level athletes (Sandbakk et al.,
102 2010). Considerably increased average speeds in biathlon races has led to similar development
103 as in cross-country skiing, placing more demands on anaerobic capacity and power along with
104 function of the neuromuscular system, especially in the upper body (Sandbakk & Holmberg,
105 2014).

106 Biathlon shooting has been extensively studied from the shooting technical perspective. In the
107 prone shooting position, the biathlete has three support points, both elbows and the lower body.
108 In the study by Sattlecker et al. (2017), vertical rifle sway was observed to be related to shooting
109 performance. Recent findings also suggest that in addition to stability of hold, also aiming
110 accuracy, cleanness of triggering and timing of triggering play an important role in biathlon
111 prone shooting (Köykkä et al., 2022). Furthermore, high pre-shot trigger force values and a flat
112 trigger force curve inclination during triggering has been observed to increase rifle stability
113 (Köykkä et al., 2022; Sattlecker et al., 2017). In the standing position, the base of support forms
114 between the feet. The smaller base of support area and higher center of gravity location of the
115 body-rifle combination in the standing position makes controlling the sway considerably more
116 difficult compared to the prone position. In the standing shooting position, stability of hold
117 (Ihalainen et al., 2018; Sattlecker et al., 2014, 2017) and cleanness of triggering (Ihalainen et
118 al., 2018) have been observed to be related to shooting performance. A recent study also

119 suggested that biathletes might use different aiming strategies, hold and timing, and that the
120 strategy used would affect performance-related factors (Köykkä et al., 2021). Regarding
121 postural control, both antero-posterior (perpendicular to shooting line) (Sattlecker et al., 2017)
122 and medio-lateral (parallel to shooting line) (Ihalainen et al., 2018) sway have been observed
123 to have a negative effect on standing shooting performance. Postural control has an indirect
124 effect on shooting performance as well, as it has been shown to be related to variables relating
125 to movements of the aiming point (Ihalainen et al., 2018). Further, when compared to their
126 younger counterparts, national top-level biathletes have demonstrated better shooting
127 performance (Ihalainen et al., 2018; Sattlecker et al., 2014), postural balance (Ihalainen et al.,
128 2018) and stability of hold (Sattlecker et al., 2014).

129 Pacing strategies in biathlon competitions have been investigated recently. In the sprint
130 (Luchsinger et al., 2018), individual (Luchsinger et al., 2019) and pursuit (Björklund et al.,
131 2022) competitions biathletes tend to have fastest skiing speed on their first lap, slow down for
132 successive loops, and increase the speed again for the final lap. In contrast, the mass start
133 competition seems to begin with a slow lap and the second lap is the fastest (Björklund et al.,
134 2022). However, thorough elite level competition analyses looking at speed variations, cycle
135 characteristics, sub-techniques used, and detailed range work information are thus far lacking.

136 Typically, coaches measure temporal biathlon range characteristics in training sessions using a
137 stopwatch. In competitions, some temporal range work characteristics are automatically meas-
138 ured by the competition timing system, whereas others are added manually competition staff.
139 Recent technological advances could enable such analyses automatically with high precision
140 and without interrupting the athlete. Previous studies among skiing sports have showed that a
141 GNSS together with IMU sensors seem to be able to detect sport-specific events, distinguish
142 between sub-techniques, provide cycle characteristics and within-cycle changes in speed rea-
143 sonably well (Jølstad et al., 2021; Neuwirth et al., 2020; Rindal et al., 2017; Stöggl et al., 2014;
144 Takeda et al., 2019). However, some metrics may not be precise, especially those related to the
145 absolute location of the athlete (Jølstad et al., 2021), highlighting the need for sport-specific
146 validations. Therefore, the aim of the present study was to examine the validity of a commercial
147 wearable wireless GNSS-IMU system in automated temporal biathlon range work analysis.

148 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

149 **Participants**

150 A total of 12 biathletes (age 21 ± 4 years old) volunteered for the study. Before participating in
151 the measurements, all subjects gave their written informed consent, after being informed of the
152 purpose, nature and potential risks of the study. The study was conducted according to the
153 declaration of Helsinki.

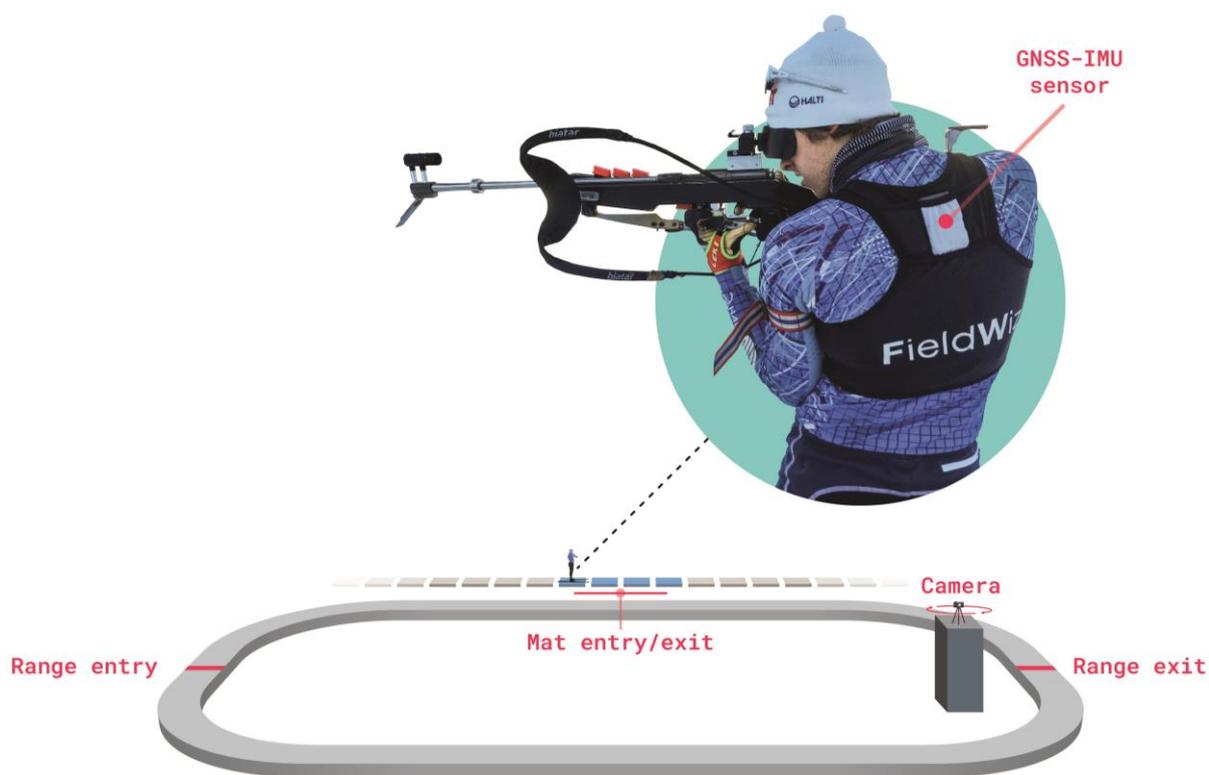
154 **Experimental task**

155 Each biathlete performed a typical biathlon range work training session using their own rifles
156 and skiing equipment. The session consisted of skiing 12 laps around the shooting range,
157 carrying the rifle. A 5-shot series of biathlon shooting was performed during each lap, six times
158 from the prone and the standing position. In one prone and one standing trial, the biathlete only
159 shot four shots due to a reloading mistake and not having spare rounds available. The biathletes
160 were instructed to perform as they would do in a competition.

161 **Data collection**

162 All data were simultaneously collected using a wearable Naos sensor (Archinisis, Switzerland)
163 placed inside a vest on the biathlete's upper back and a high-speed video camera (LUMIX DC-
164 GH5, Panasonic Corporation, Japan). The sensor (weight 78 grams; dimensions 81 x 53 x 17
165 mm) measures 3D location, 3D speed, 3D acceleration and 3D angular velocity using a GNSS
166 sensor at 10 Hz, an IMU at 208 Hz and a barometer at 12.5 Hz data rate, and featured the u-
167 blox M10 prototype GNSS chip limited to three satellite constellations and a maximum of 16
168 satellites. The IMU possesses a dynamic measurement range of ± 16 g for the accelerometer
169 and ± 2000 degrees/second for the gyroscope. Fifteen minutes prior to the mounting of the
170 wearable sensor on the athlete's back, it was turned on and placed outside in an open
171 environment to allow for finding satellite signals. The video camera recorded at 180 Hz (shutter
172 speed: between 1/1300 and 1/2000; FHD: 1920 x 1080) from a location where the whole
173 shooting range was visible. An overall schematic of the measurement set-up used has been
174 illustrated in Figure 1.

175



176

177 Figure 1. An overall schematic of the measurement set-up and the skiing route around the shoot-
178 ing range.

179 Multiple shooting range related variables were analyzed using the commercial cloud-based web
180 software (Archinisis, Switzerland) as well as from camera footage (Table 1). For the wearable
181 system, range entry and exit location were determined manually by the Archinisis team based
182 on satellite images and with the help of a calibration measurement. For the calibration
183 measurement, a researcher walked five times along the desired range entry and exit lines
184 holding one wearable sensor horizontally in his hand (Figure 2). The corresponding lines were
185 marked on the ground so that they were visible in the camera footage. The time instants when
186 the biathlete's leading ankle crossed the line at range entry and exit were used as range entry
187 and exit times obtained from the camera footage. A line was also marked on the ground 20 cm

188 in front of the shooting mat. For mat entry, the time instant when the biathlete's leading ankle
 189 crossed the line was used. For mat exit, the time instant when the trailing ankle crossed the line
 190 was used. Shots were detected as the time instants when smoke came out from the rifle barrel
 191 after triggering. Video brightness and contrast were modified when necessary to make the event
 192 more clearly perceivable.

193 Table 1. Variable descriptions.

Variable	Description
Approaching	Time elapsed between range entry and mat entry
Preparing	Time elapsed between mat entry and the 1st shot
Shot interval	Time elapsed between consecutive shots
Total shooting	Time elapsed between the 1st and last shot
Mat off	Time elapsed between the last shot and mat exit
Leaving	Time elapsed between mat exit and range exit
Range time	Time elapsed between range entry and range exit
Mat time	Time elapsed between mat entry and mat exit



194

195 Figure 2. The satellite image that was used by the Archinisis team to define range entry and exit
 196 lines for the wearable system based on the calibration recording.

197 **Statistical analysis**

198 Eight prone and six standing shot intervals were excluded from the analyses because the shot
 199 moments were not detectable from the camera footage. In two prone trials and one standing
 200 trial, the first and last shots were excluded, and therefore it was not possible to calculate pre-
 201 paring time, total shooting time and mat off time. In one standing trial, the video file was cor-
 202 rupted starting right after the biathlete had crossed the mat entry line, leading to missing leaving
 203 time, total shooting time, mat off time, mat time, range time and four shot intervals. The result-
 204 ing sample sizes are reported in Table 2.

205 Data from all subjects and from all trials were pooled and analyzed separately for the prone and
206 standing postures. All data are reported as mean \pm standard deviation where applicable. As the
207 Shapiro-Wilk test revealed that all variables violated the normality assumption in both systems,
208 nonparametric tests were used where necessary.

209 The concurrent validity of the range variables obtained from the wearable system were evalu-
210 ated by using corresponding variables obtained from the high-speed camera as the comparison.
211 To assess differences between the results derived from the wearable system and from videos,
212 mean bias was evaluated with the Wilcoxon signed rank-test and 95 % limits of agreement and
213 mean absolute error (MAE) and root mean squared coefficient of variation percentage
214 ($CV\%_{RMS}$) were analyzed.

215 Relationships between the methods were examined using the two-tailed Spearman correlation
216 (r_s) and intra-class correlation coefficient (calculated for absolute agreement, ICC). ICCs were
217 used to indicate the agreement, with values of <0.40 , 0.40 to <0.60 , 0.60 to <0.75 , and ≥ 0.75
218 representing the qualitative thresholds for poor, fair, good, and excellent levels of agreement,
219 respectively (Cicchetti, 1994). Further, Bland-Altman plots (Bland & Altman, 1986) were used
220 to visualize the agreement between the methods.

221 Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$. Statistical analyses were conducted with IBM SPSS
222 Statistics 26.0 software (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) and R version 4.1.2 ([https://www.R-](https://www.R-project.org/)
223 [project.org/](https://www.R-project.org/)).

224 **RESULTS**

225 The wearable system detected all events that were obtained from the camera footage. In prone
226 shooting, minor significant differences were observed in approaching (-0.43 ± 0.37 s), shot
227 interval (-0.003 ± 0.006 s), total shooting (-0.01 ± 0.02 s), mat off (-0.13 ± 0.17 s), leaving (0.44
228 ± 0.33 s), range (-0.11 ± 0.18 s) and mat (-0.10 ± 0.29 s) times (all $p < 0.01$). In standing
229 shooting, minor significant differences were observed in preparing (-0.20 ± 0.28 s), shot inter-
230 vals (-0.007 ± 0.012 s), total shooting (-0.03 ± 0.04 s), mat off (0.07 ± 0.18 s), leaving ($0.19 \pm$
231 0.29 s) and mat (-0.16 ± 0.30 s) times (all $p < 0.01$). Good to excellent levels of agreement (ICC
232 from 0.71 to 1.00) and strong relationships (r_s from 0.87 to 1.00, all $p < 0.001$) between the
233 methods were observed for all temporal biathlon range work characteristics. (Table 2). High
234 agreements between the methods are visualized in Figures 2 and 3.

235 **DISCUSSION**

236 The aim of the present study was to examine the validity of a wearable wireless GNSS-IMU
237 system in automated temporal biathlon range work analysis. The main finding was that the
238 wearable system was able to detect approaching time, preparing time, shot intervals, total
239 shooting time, mat off time, leaving time, range time and mat time with high accuracy as
240 compared to the corresponding video-derived time instants.

241 These findings are in line with previous studies. In classical style cross-country skiing, a high-
242 precision kinematic GNSS was observed to precisely detect the type of sub-technique, skiing
243 cycle characteristics, skiing duration and speed, and distance covered at all parts of a track
244 (Takeda et al., 2019). In alpine skiing, a classifier based on GNSS and IMU data was able to
245 detect different ski turn styles with a high precision (Neuwirth et al., 2020). Another study on
246 alpine skiing suggested that some sport-specific metrics given by a GNSS-IMU system

247 (AdMos) are valid, such as the number of turns per run, and can be trusted per se, whereas some
248 can be useful after averaging over a certain time period (Jølstad et al., 2021).

249 The wearable system detected shots with a good precision resulting in accurate shot intervals
250 and total shooting time (Table 2). The mean bias and mean absolute errors were approximately
251 the duration of one video frame (1/180 s). However, Bland-Altman plots revealed that in
252 standing shooting, some shots deviated considerably more than others from the mean ± 1.96
253 standard deviation range (Figure 3). It is possible that obtaining shots from the camera footage
254 using the time instants when smoke came out from the rifle barrel after triggering caused some
255 inaccuracy in shot times. However, video frame rate and shutter speed did not allow for
256 detecting the bullet coming out from the rifle barrel in most shots. Further, as only one camera
257 was used to record all events, the distance between the cameraman and the biathlete was too
258 high to allow for detecting the trigger pull or recoil events unambiguously. From the coaching
259 point of view, even though these least accurate shot intervals would be caused by an inaccurate
260 detection by the wearable sensor, the precision is well within an acceptable range.

261 Approach and leaving times demonstrated weakest agreements between the methods (Table 2).
262 The results might suggest that the errors may be related to imprecisions in detecting the exact
263 moment when the biathlete crosses a certain line, i.e. an absolute position error. The exact
264 algorithms behind the variables are not available, but certain characteristics may support this.
265 When approaching to shoot from the prone posture, the biathlete stops moving close to the mat
266 entry line (Figure 1) and goes down on one's knees to start building the prone posture. Similarly,
267 after the shooting the biathlete first gets up and then starts skiing again. A previous study in
268 cross-country skiing showed that even a GNSS sensor only can detect vertical oscillations of
269 the head during classical style skiing, along with changes in skiing speed (Takeda et al., 2019).
270 These events could allow for detecting mat entry and exit in prone shooting by looking only
271 vertical oscillations and changes in speed of the sensor. In standing shooting, the biathlete stops
272 close to the centre of the shooting mat to start shooting, allowing for the algorithm to look at
273 changes in speed. When crossing range entry and exit lines, only position data could be used.
274 The errors observed in approaching and leaving also seem to cancel each other out. As range
275 time was exact for both shooting postures, it could be suggested that the sensor possesses an
276 absolute position error, which is equal in size but opposite direction at both ends of the shooting
277 range.

278 These errors are comparable to the position errors observed in previous studies using similar
279 GNSS sensors (Gløersen et al., 2018; Jølstad et al., 2021), and could also be related to the
280 calibration procedure to determine the range entry and exit positions. The calibration
281 measurement was performed on a different day than the actual trials, which may have caused
282 some proportion of these errors. To study within and between session variations in the global
283 position accuracy of the sensor, a future study could repeat the measurement protocol and
284 perform the calibration measurement at the beginning and end of each measurement day.
285 However, the observed mean absolute errors of less than 0.5 seconds are well acceptable in
286 biathlon training. Hence, it can be concluded that in practice, the calibration procedure that was
287 used provides a satisfactory accuracy.

288 Furthermore, a limitation of the study is that the sensor was placed on the biathletes' upper
289 back, whereas the time instants when the biathlete crossed range and shooting mat entry and
290 exit positions was determined from the ankles. However, this was considered acceptable as the
291 time difference between the upper back and ankle crossing certain lines was small and it was
292 easier to estimate the ankle's horizontal position in reference to the entry or exit line.

293 As the wearable system was observed to be valid, it can be used in the future to collect data on
294 biathletes' race and training performance. The system provides useful information for the
295 athletes about their range work and helps coaches by collecting and storing the data
296 automatically. The information can be used to guide training prescription and follow progress.
297 It also allows for collecting a high amount of research data on biathletes' race and training
298 performance, which could help researchers to catch up with the sport enabling protocols with
299 high ecological validity in real training and competition environment. Further, as IMU sensors
300 have demonstrated promising results in postural sway assessment (Ghislieri et al., 2019),
301 development of new algorithms could make it possible to use the same system e.g. for postural
302 sway measurements during competitions without interrupting the biathlete.

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402 Table 2. Comparison between the temporal mean \pm SD pooled video-based and wearable-based biathlon range work characteristics.

Prone	n	Video-based [s]	Wearable-based [s]	Bias (95 % CI) [s]	MAE [s]	ICC (95 % CI)	CV%_{RMS}	r_s
Approaching	72	9.46 \pm 0.97	9.88 \pm 0.97	-0.43 (-0.51 to -0.34) ^{***}	0.47 \pm 0.31	0.84 (0.80 to 0.87)	4.1	0.92 ^{***}
Preparing	70	20.18 \pm 3.82	20.18 \pm 3.87	0.00 (-0.06 to 0.07)	0.19 \pm 0.17	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.9	1.00 ^{***}
Shot interval	279	4.33 \pm 1.57	4.33 \pm 1.57	-0.003 (-0.004 to -0.003) ^{***}	0.006 \pm 0.004	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.1	1.00 ^{***}
Total shooting	70	17.25 \pm 5.06	17.26 \pm 5.07	-0.01 (-0.02 to -0.01) ^{***}	0.02 \pm 0.01	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.1	1.00 ^{***}
Mat off	70	5.46 \pm 1.00	5.55 \pm 0.98	-0.09 (-0.13 to -0.04) ^{***}	0.14 \pm 0.13	0.98 (0.98 to 0.99)	2.5	0.98 ^{***}
Leaving	72	10.57 \pm 0.67	10.13 \pm 0.69	0.44 (0.36 to 0.52) ^{***}	0.46 \pm 0.31	0.71 (0.64 to 0.76)	3.7	0.88 ^{***}
Range time	72	62.59 \pm 8.30	62.69 \pm 8.32	-0.11 (-0.15 to -0.06) ^{***}	0.17 \pm 0.12	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.2	1.00 ^{***}
Mat time	72	42.56 \pm 8.25	42.66 \pm 8.31	-0.10 (-0.17 to -0.03) ^{**}	0.24 \pm 0.20	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.5	1.00 ^{***}
Standing								
Approaching	72	9.12 \pm 0.90	9.20 \pm 0.79	-0.08 (-0.16 to 0.01)	0.27 \pm 0.26	0.91 (0.88 to 0.92)	2.9	0.87 ^{***}
Preparing	70	16.93 \pm 2.83	17.13 \pm 2.83	-0.20 (-0.27 to -0.14) ^{***}	0.29 \pm 0.19	0.99 (0.99 to 0.99)	1.4	1.00 ^{***}
Shot interval	279	3.50 \pm 1.81	3.51 \pm 1.81	-0.007 (-0.008 to -0.006) ^{***}	0.009 \pm 0.010	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.3	1.00 ^{***}
Total shooting	70	14.00 \pm 4.12	14.03 \pm 4.12	-0.03 (-0.04 to -0.02) ^{***}	0.03 \pm 0.04	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.2	1.00 ^{***}
Mat off	70	4.58 \pm 0.87	4.51 \pm 0.85	0.07 (0.02 to 0.11) ^{**}	0.15 \pm 0.11	0.98 (0.97 to 0.98)	2.9	0.98 ^{***}
Leaving	71	10.21 \pm 0.58	10.02 \pm 0.64	0.19 (0.12 to 0.26) ^{***}	0.29 \pm 0.18	0.84 (0.81 to 0.87)	2.4	0.87 ^{***}
Range time	71	54.74 \pm 5.96	54.78 \pm 5.93	-0.03 (-0.08 to 0.01)	0.15 \pm 0.11	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.2	1.00 ^{***}
Mat time	71	35.42 \pm 5.86	35.58 \pm 5.88	-0.16 (-0.23 to -0.09) ^{***}	0.28 \pm 0.20	1.00 (1.00 to 1.00)	0.7	1.00 ^{***}

CI = confidence interval, MAE = mean absolute error, ICC = intra-class correlation coefficient calculated for absolute agreement, CV%_{RMS} = root-mean-squared coefficient of variation percentage, *** = $p < 0.001$, ** = $p < 0.01$.

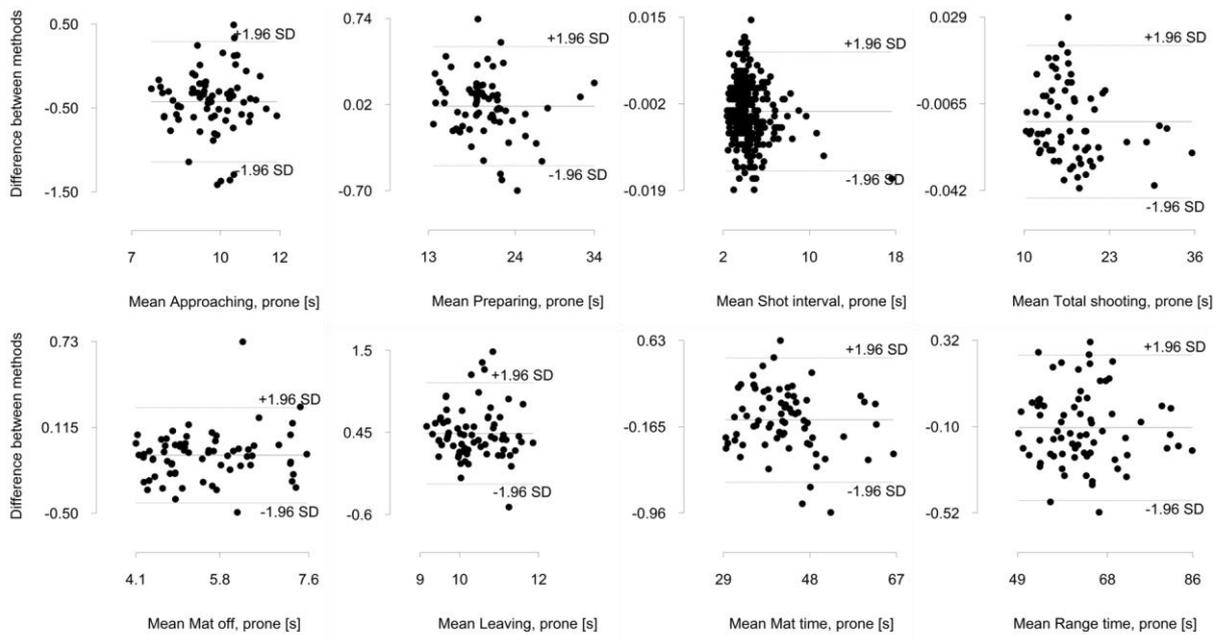


Figure 2. Bland-Altman plots representing the mean bias and limits of agreement ($\pm 1.96 \times \text{SD}$ of differences) between the video-based and wearable-based temporal biathlon range work characteristics in prone shooting.

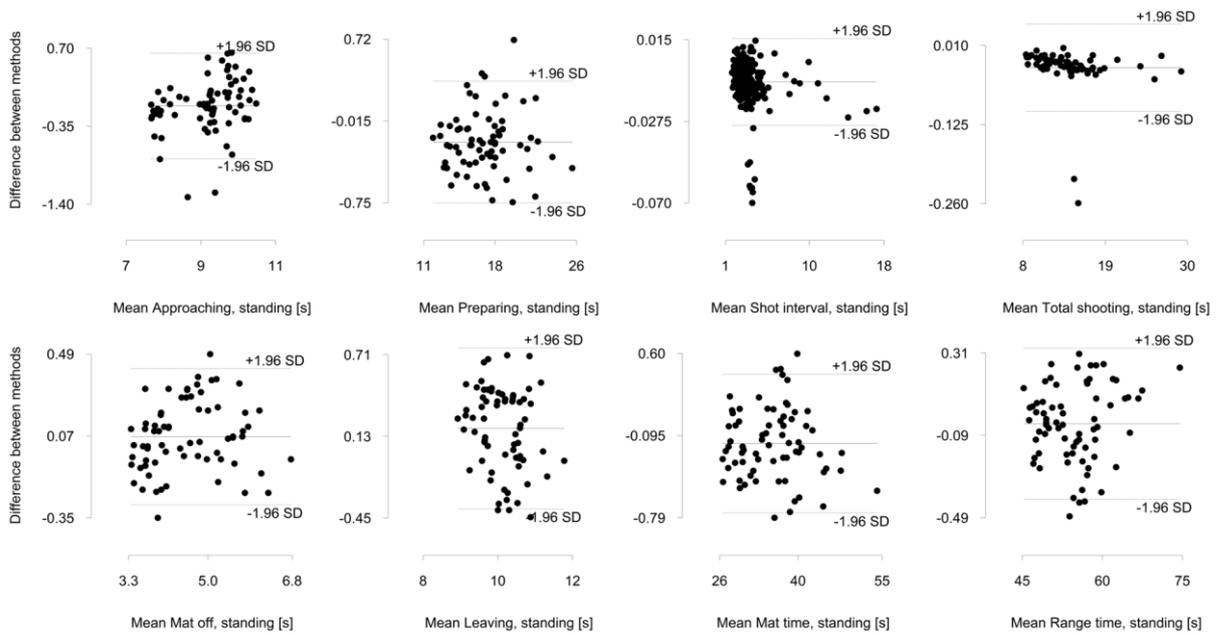


Figure 3. Bland-Altman plots representing the mean bias and limits of agreement ($\pm 1.96 \times \text{SD}$ of differences) between the video-based and wearable-based temporal biathlon range work characteristics in standing shooting.