

**PRESENTATION**  
OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE  
**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**



**IBU**

**15<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY**  
**IBU CONGRESS**

15 SEP - 18 SEP 2022 | **SALZBURG** AUT



## **BERZINS, Janis**

LATVIA

My name is Janis Berzins, I'm 40 and I am from Latvia. I am an ex-biathlete, where my connection with World Cup level started in 2000 lasted till 2013, but well known with biathlon from 1993.

Since that time been working also in National level closely connected to biathlon, organizing biathlon competitions in different formats, helping young athletes. From year 2022 I take a part in Latvian Biathlon federation as a member of the board.

Already 5 full winter seasons my work is side by side connected to IBU, in a duty - material control. Working hand in hand on daily basis with athletes and having a good connection with our Biathlon Family coaches. Been in such position on daily basis, I am looking forward to giving my best input and development for IBU TC. For any questions and ideas, we can always communicate in English, Russian, Italian, Latvian.

**Note from the IBU:** *Mr Berzins is employed by the IBU during the winter season as a Technical Official. A role for which he is remunerated.*



## **BITTERLING, Felix**

GERMANY

I have worked for the IBU for almost 13 years until March 2022 being a Race Director for many years up to being the Sports & Event Director. All positions covered topics of sports administration, NF development programs and rules development. I trust it's fair to say that I know what it takes to further develop the great sport of biathlon.

In my new job, as Head of Biathlon of the German Ski Federation, I keep working with all kinds of biathlon topics on a daily basis. In addition, I am holding national and international referee licenses and an IBU TD license, which provides me with a wide knowledge of the biathlon rules and competition organization.

I am highly committed to contributing to a successful future of biathlon and would bring my knowledge, experience and passion to the IBU Technical Committee, if elected.



### **BOTNAN, Per Arne**

NORWAY

- Born 1969
- 40 years with biathlon on different levels
- Athlete on national high level as junior
- Master education in sport, 5 years
- Administration education, 2 years
- Teacher and coach biathlon high school, 5 years
- Coach regional team senior, 4 years
- Coach B team Norway men, 3 years
- Sports director team Norway, 13 years
- Big interest for development of the sport of biathlon into the future



### **BRAJDIC, Dejan**

CROATIA

I was born 1975 in Rijeka, Croatia. I have been in sport since I was 6 years old. First cross-country skiing and then biathlon. After graduating from university of Kinesiology in Zagreb, I became a club coach and at the same time studied to become a Nordic walking instructor. Not long after that, I became the head coach of the Croatian biathlon national team. I also worked as a school teacher.

Currently I hold the position of director in Croatian biathlon national team.

The constant desire to improve led me to candidacy for a member of the IBU technical committee. The goal I set for myself is to make our sport even more accessible for everyone and to represent the voice of "small" countries within the big biathlon family.



## **CURTAZ, Fabrizio**

ITALY

I am Fabrizio Curtaz, I am 51 years old, I am married, and I have 2 children aged 18 and 16. I live in Gressoney, in Aosta Valley. I am still in the Border Police.

I was a Biathlon athlete until the age of 24, in Sport Winter Police Group and I was part of the Italian Biathlon National Teams.

From 1995 until 2007 (12 seasons) I was nominated by the Italian Ski Federation to train the National Biathlon Teams, from the Junior's Team to the World Cup Team.

For the last 12 seasons I've been the Technical and Sport Director of the Italian Biathlon National Teams, dealing with the last 4 Olympic Games.

I'll always be available to collaborate for the continuous technical development of our sport, safeguarding the strengths and preserving the tradition and the identity of Biathlon.



## **ÖBERG, Ulrika**

SWEDEN

Dear Biathlon Friends,

Biathlon has been my passion almost whole my life. Ten years as a professional athlete ended up 2003 and after a few years I start working at Swedish Biathlon Federation. First as a coach but then in a national development role that suit me better, today I'm National Director. I was responsible for all national competitions, where I acted as RD/TD, led the NF Technical Committee and many other national areas, for example school topics. Since 2013 I have, as the first female ever, been Chief of Competition for WCH/WC in Östersund and 2016 I became part of the IBU TD group.

With all my experience and knowledge, I feel that I can contribute a lot to our sport as a candidate for IBU Technical Committee!

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to meeting you in Salzburg.



## **RIIHIVUORI, Tomi-Pekka**

FINLAND

I am a 39-year-old passionate sportsman from Finland. For me the last 10 years have been exciting biathlon roller coaster time. Despite my relatively young age I've gathered wide experience for biathlon events and rules in practice through the leadership in World Championships 2015 and several World Cups 2016-2020 at Kontiolahti OC.

The most significant period has been the University and master's degree in Sport Sciences in Finland's most wanted academy. This has been the basis for all my actions during my sport career.

My vision of Biathlon Sport

- IBU and the biathlon sport have had a huge development for many years. So, let's keep up this way!
- Biathlon continues as the most attractive and leading winter sport: Innovative, professional, modern, equal and effective for all parties (NF's, athletes, fans, sponsors, partners and media)
- High respect to scientific basis for development



## **STUDEBAKER-HALL, Sara**

USA

As a former Olympian (2010 & 2014) and coach (2014-2020), and a current Technical Delegate, Chief of Competition, and employee of my National Federation (US Biathlon), I understand the many sides that must be considered when looking at biathlon rules.

My work as Chief of Competition for Soldier Hollow has shown me the importance of clarity and education to the implementation of fair competition. I am passionate about biathlon, and continuing to make the biathlon experience the best it can be for athletes, coaches, teams, organizers, and fans. I can especially relate to the challenges faced by medium and smaller teams and organizers, and would be a dedicated member of the Technical Committee.

I know my multi-faceted background gives me the tools to be a strong member of the IBU Technical Committee, and I respectfully ask for your support.



## **SZÖCS, Emöke**

HUNGARY

I am 36 years old. I was a competitive Biathlete and Nordic skier for about 20 years and competed at two Olympic Games.

Now I am responsible for all the management of the team during the preparation and during the competition season and helping at the children's level as well, organizing training camps for different age categories. I also take part in administrative tasks.

As a candidate for the IBU Technical Committee, I will endeavor to respect its history, bring a fresh viewpoint and skill set to prioritize growth and set an exemplary path in gender equity aligned with IBU's vision.

As an athlete and as a coach I have experienced very often that this Committee wants very much to hear the voice of the smaller nations as well, but sometimes it is difficult. I believe I can be a person who can form a bridge between the TC and small nations.

I believe my experience, my motivation and knowledge can contribute to the work of the TC.



## **VASSALLO, Christophe**

FRANCE

I was a biathlete in the French National Team until 1994 before I became Biathlon National coach until the OWG 2006, Torino. Since 2006 I act as Biathlon National Coordinator and was in parallel elected to the IBU Technical Committee (Chairman since 2016).

I gained a lot of experience by managing the IBU Technical Committee and by many assignments as IBU Technical Delegate in major IBU Events (YJWCH, SBWCH, 2 WCHs (2017 & 2020), 2 OWGs (2018 & 2022), many WCs and IBU Cups).

I feel very satisfied with having been part of the cooperation achieved in the past years with all parties (IBU HQ, Race Directors, OCs, Teams, AC) and with the different working groups I was involved in.

Biathlon is in my DNA and I have a huge motivation to continue to bring my experience and my enthusiasm at the service of the general interest of our sport.



**ZAHKNA, Hillar**

ESTONIA

In 1992 and 1994, I participated in the Winter Olympic Games as an athlete. After my athletic career, I worked as the Head Coach of the Estonian Biathlon Team (2001-2002; 2006-2010).

In addition, I have been part of the Organizing Committee as the Chief of Competition of numerous international biathlon events held in Estonia, the most recent being the BMW IBU World Cup Otepää in March 2022. Also, I have been a member of the IBU Technical Committee since 2018 and an IBU Technical Delegate since 2019. Currently, I am the Secretary-General of the Estonian Biathlon Federation.

I believe that the experience of having been both - a professional biathlete and a coach - helps to understand the needs of athletes and coaches of today. My long-term experience as the Chief of Competition contributes to understanding the technical execution and organizational structure of international biathlon events.



**ZICHACEK, Michal**

CZECH REPUBLIC

Professional biathlon event manager with over twenty years of experience enthusiastically working for biathlon from a local OC to the world cup organiser. Detail-oriented person believing that thorough planning helps save energy and cost. Seeking to bring intelligent digital technologies to simplify processes and make everyday life easier.

As an educated Ph.D level former sport scientist I can offer theoretical background combined with more than 10 year experience as a member of IBU TD group and the organiser of the world top biathlon events in Nove Mesto na Morave. As a Czech Biathlon Union EB member and the chairman of the national technical committee I am responsible for event and competition rules' update and the best possible referees' education which helps improve quality of the events' workflow.

I am a proud candidate ready and keen to contribute IBU TC my skills and knowledge in all above mentioned areas.