

BIATHLON THE SPORT

Welcome to the exciting and challenging world of Biathlon

DEFINITION

Biathlon is an Olympic winter sport, which combines competitive, free-technique cross-country skiing and small-bore rifle marksmanship.

Several other competition forms of movement and shooting - such as ski archery, snowshoe Biathlon, running and shooting and mountain bike Biathlon - are also normally included in the general category of Biathlon. The word competition is used in Biathlon instead of race because it is not only a race but a combination of two different competitive activities.

THE CHALLENGE

The combination of two very contradictory disciplines, skiing and shooting, in the same competition confronts an athlete with a very demanding challenge. Cross-country racing requires intense, full out physical exertion over an extended period of time while shooting demands extremely fine control and stability. When athletes arrive at the shooting range, they have to shoot at a very small target, with a racing heartbeat and heaving chest because the clock is running even while they are shooting.

HISTORY OF BIATHLON

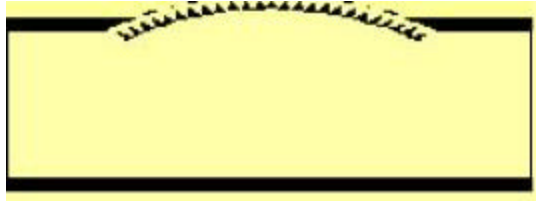
Ancient History and Early Development

The word *biathlon* is of Greek origin and means "two tests". The combination of skiing and shooting used in the sport today is founded on a tradition of hunting, stemming back over four thousand years. Petroglyphs found in Norway depict hunters, with spears, traveling on skis in pursuit of game. Written descriptions of hunting on skis can be traced back to 400 B.C. and the Roman poet, Virgil. "Biathlon's" military uses have been subsequently noted by generals, writers, geographers, and historians such as Xenophon, Strabol, Arrian, Theophanes, Prokopius, and Acruni who described battles of warriors equipped with skis. Gradually, the techniques needed for survival and combat, developed into contests of skill. What could have been a more natural competition between the hunters in the Scandinavian forests, than that of marksmanship and cross-country skiing?

The first recorded biathlon race was organized near the border between Sweden and Norway in 1767 but regular competitions did not take hold until the early twentieth century. As training for defense purposes, biathlon grew in popularity among military units, especially in Scandinavia. Known as the "military patrol", it was contested at the first Olympic Winter Games, at Chamonix, France, in 1924. The sport remained on the Olympic program until 1948, when post-war sentiments caused it to be dropped.

International History

During the 1950's, Swedish members of the *Union Internationale Pentathlon Modern* (UIPM) advanced the cause of biathlon. At the meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) held in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1957, the UIPM presented a motion concerning the introduction of "Individual Biathlon" as an official event in the Olympic Winter Games. The motion was approved and ratified one year later at the IOC meeting in Tokyo, Japan. Thus, biathlon was re-introduced to the Olympics at Squaw Valley, U.S.A. in 1960 and has remained ever since. The first Olympic gold medal for an

individual biathlon race was presented to Klas Lestander (SWE).

The first World Championships were contested at Saalfelden, Austria in 1958.

The first World Championships for men were held in 1958 at Saalfelden, Austria, under the auspices of the UIPMB (*Union Internationale Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon*). It was an individual 20 km event using full-bore rifles. Five shots were taken from each of four shooting ramps with target distances of 100 m (standing), 150 m, 200 m, and 250 m (prone). For each miss, a 2 minute penalty was added to the skiing time. Later, the shooting distances were standardized to 150 m for both prone and standing. The penalty system was also changed so that there was a non-penalty bulls-eye (125 mm for prone, 350 mm for standing), a one-minute penalty zone to a diameter of 250 mm for prone and 450 mm for standing, and a two-minute penalty zone beyond these diameters. Little changed in the 20 km individual event until the introduction of the small bore rifle.

In 1972, the UIPMB decided to change the calibre of rifles used at the World Junior Championships, in order to gain experience with new rules. The reasons for the change included the high cost of ammunition, the size and power of the rifles, noise and safety issues, and the difficulty in obtaining gun licenses. In 1976, at the Biathlon Congress in Seefeld, Austria, a proposal for the official introduction of the small bore, .22 calibre rifle was approved. Two years later in Hochfilzen, Austria, the small bore rifles were used for the first time in World Championships, a development that dramatically changed the sport of biathlon. As a consequence, the acceptance and popularity of biathlon grew rapidly. World Championships in 1978 doubled in size to 28 participating nations and that same year, a 5-stop World Cup tour was established for senior men. Currently, the International Biathlon Union (IBU) boasts 57 member nations from five continents. There are over 30 nations competing in the nine-event World Cup tour and more than forty attend World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games.

1948	Union Internationale de Pentathlon Modern (UIPM) founded
1953	Biathlon becomes an activity in UIPM
1954	IOC accepts Biathlon
1956	Rules for Biathlon competitions are approved and UIPM recognizes member federations for both sports
1958	First Biathlon World Championships
1960	Men's 20 km Individual competition held in Olympic Winter Games, Squaw Valley
1968	Relay competition in Olympic Winter Games, Grenoble, B added to UIPMB
1978	Change to small bore (.22 inch caliber) rifles
1980	Sprint competition in Olympic Winter Games,
1984	First Women's World Championships, Chamonix, FRA
1989	Joint World Championships for Men and Women, and separately for Junior Men and Junior Women, in Feistritz, AUT and Voss, NOR respectively
1992	Women in Olympic Winter Games, Albertville
1993	International Biathlon Union (IBU) founded in London, GBR
1996	First Summer Biathlon World Championships, Feistritz, AUT
1997	Pursuit competition in World Championships and World Cup events
1998	IBU final separation from UIPMB in Salzburg, AUT, recognition of IBU as an International Federation by the IOC, Mass Start becomes an official competition

1999	Pursuit competition accepted in the Olympic program, Team competition removed from World Championships
Women in Biathlon	

Following the change to small bore rifles, interest in biathlon among women and girls began to rise. By 1982, the European Cup was established for women. This competitive tour followed the Men's World Cup throughout Europe. In 1986, by which time competitors from 3 continents had joined the tour, the events were elevated to the status of World Cups. Today, 120 women from 30 countries vie for the coveted title of World Cup Champion.

World Championships for women was inaugurated in 1984 as part of the World Junior Championships for men. Not until 1989 did women gain their rightful place at the combined men's and women's World Championships. That year, the World Junior Championships were opened for the first time to junior women. Despite the number of female competitors, the International Olympic Committee did not include women in the Olympic Winter Games biathlon program until 1992! In Albertville, France, the first Olympic gold medals for women's biathlon were presented to Antje Misersky (GER) in the Individual event and Anfissa Retzova (RUS) in the Sprint.

Biathlon is classed as a life sport because it has had, and still has, an application in everyday living. Cave drawings found in Norway, dating back some 5000 years, give us the earliest record of skiing and carrying a weapon for hunting or fighting. Historical records from Asia also tell of "winged horses" on the feet of hunters in pursuit of game animals over snow. The first historically recorded Biathlon competition took place near the Swedish-Norwegian border in 1767, between companies of border guards from the two countries. Generally, development of Biathlon continued through hunting and warfare until it became a demonstration sport in the first Olympic Winter Games in 1924 in Chamonix, France under the name of Military Patrol. Since then, Biathlon has undergone many dramatic changes, including admission into the Olympic Games as Biathlon in 1960 in Squaw Valley and a change to small-bore rifles (.22 in) in 1978. Although women competed in Biathlon for many years, women's competitions did not become part of the Olympic Winter Games until the 1992 Games in Albertville. Modern day highlights of Biathlon history are presented as follows:

Canadian History and Achievements

In Canada, the sport of biathlon began under the auspices of the Canadian Armed Forces. In 1968, represented by an all-military team at Grenoble, France, Canada participated for the first time in an Olympic biathlon competition. Unfortunately, the sport declined in popularity. National championships, which had been held throughout the 1960's, were abandoned. It was not until 1978 and the rule changes regarding rifle calibre that biathlon enjoyed a resurgence in Canada. Under the auspices of the Biathlon Discipline of the Canadian Ski Association (which became incorporated independently as Biathlon Canada in 1985) Canadian Championships began being staged again and have included women since 1980.

One of the mandates of the national organization is to develop a national team and prepare them for international competition. Canada began sending teams to compete at the world level in 1982. By the end of the decade our athletes were beginning to post excellent results. In 1986, Lise Meloche (ONT) achieved four top-10 placings in World Cup and World Championship events and Charles Plamondon (QUE) was the first Canadian man to place in the top 20 at World Championships. Beginning in the 1990's, the world sat up and took notice of the Canadian biathletes with the 8th place finish by Steve Cyr (PQ) in the Olympic Sprint event in Albertville, France in 1992. However, one Canadian name stands above all others - Myriam Bédard.

Born in December, 1969, Myriam began biathlon in the mid-1980's as a cadet. She excelled at the sport and joined the national team in 1989 when she placed 4th at the World Junior Championships

held in Chamonix, France. She went on to win Canada's first ever World Cup medal, placing 2nd in Walchsee, Austria in 1990. Myriam continued to storm the world rankings and finished second overall in World Cup points in 1991-92. Demonstrating the depth of her ability, not only has Myriam repeated this feat, she also won an Olympic bronze medal in 1992 at Albertville, France. Thanks to a young biathlete from Loretteville, Quebec, Canada had won its very first Olympic medal in Nordic competitions. Amazingly, the best was yet to come. In 1992-93, Myriam won a string of World Cup medals, finishing 2nd overall, and she won two medals at the World Championships in Borovetz, Bulgaria, including the gold medal in the 7.5 km sprint. However, 1994 proved to be her crowning glory and a year we will never forget in Canada. On February 18th, at the Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, Myriam Bédard won the gold medal for Canada in the 15 km individual event! Five days later, she struck gold a second time to accomplish what has never been achieved by any Canadian woman. Myriam had won two gold medals at one Olympic Games! For her spectacular results, Myriam was named Canada's female Athlete of the Year for 1994 and will most certainly be inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

Since the Olympics in Lillehammer, Canadian results have been mixed at best. Some bright lights have garnered World Cup Points. Along with veterans Myriam Bédard, Glenn Rupertus, Steve Cyr they include Martine Albert (PQ), Tuppy Collard (BC).

Recent Canadian junior athletes have made their mark on the international scene with top ten performance at the World Junior Championships; Ivan Phillion (ON) 1999, Barb Sharp (BC) 1999, Marÿke Ciaramidaro (AB) 2000, Zina Kocher (AB) 2000, David Leoni (AB) 2000. Furthermore Marÿke established herself in a World class athlete by virtue of her gold medal at the European Junior Championships. The future looks great!

GOVERNING BODIES

International Biathlon is governed by the International Biathlon Union (IBU), an International Federation with 58 member nations and an office in Salzburg, Austria. The IBU has jurisdiction for World Championships, World Cups, Continental Championships and Cups, and also provides technical supervision at various games such as the World University Games. Rules for Biathlon are published by the IBU and are used universally, including the Olympic Winter Games.

Biathlon Canada is the National Sport Organization and governing body for Biathlon in Canada, and has an office in Gloucester, Ontario. The Association has jurisdiction over the Canadian Championships, Eastern and Western Canadian Championships, and Canada Cups. All Canadian provinces and territories, Divisions of Biathlon Canada, have a Biathlon movement and many have a full time office and staff. Most Divisions have extensive programs including Division Championships and Cup circuits.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF A BIATHLON COMPETITION

In a Biathlon competition the Biathlete skis distances varying from 7.5 to 20 km and stops at the shooting range to shoot two or four times, with both the distance and number of shooting bouts depending on the type of competition in question. The shooting distance is always 50 m and five rounds are fired in each bout at five targets, except in the Relay competition in which the competitor has three spare rounds for each bout. There are two shooting positions, prone and standing, which are done in a sequence depending on the competition..

Target diameters are 115 mm for standing and 45 mm for prone. During the entire competition, from start to finish, the clock is running for the competitor - there is no time-out for shooting.

Penalties for missed targets are imposed either as one minute of added time per target for the Individual competition or as a 150 m penalty loop - done immediately after each bout of shooting - for all other competitions.

In essence, the competitor starts at the start line, skis one trail loop (length depending on the competition), comes to the range and shoots, skis another loop, shoots, and so on, and then finishes with a ski loop to the finish line after the last bout of shooting. For the Individual and Sprint competitions, starts are done with one competitor at a time with a 30 second or one minute interval. In a Pursuit competition, starts are based on time intervals from the qualifying competition and for the Mass Start all competitors start together simultaneously. In the Relay competition, the first members of all teams start simultaneously in a mass start and after completing their part, tag the next member to start them on their way. For Team competitions, teams start with all members as a group, with one minute between teams.

In principle, throughout the competition, the Biathletes are responsible for their own actions, such as selecting a target in the Individual and Sprint competitions (assigned in the Relay), and for counting the number of missed plates on their targets and then skiing the correct number of penalty loops. **However, they must always follow the stipulations of the competition rules.**

COMPETITION EQUIPMENT

In a competition, Biathletes wear an one-piece racing suit. Skis, poles and boots are standard competition type and are very light in weight. The rifle is designed for Biathlon with an action which is a variation of bolt or lever action, 22 inch in caliber, with a minimum weight of 3.5 kg. The magazines for the rifle may only hold five rounds of ammunition and the maximum muzzle velocity for a bullet is 380 m/s. The rifle is carried on the back with a carrying harness, vertically - barrel up. Advertising on clothing and equipment is strictly controlled to prevent gross commercialism in the sport.

SAFETY

Because Biathlon includes shooting, stringent regulations govern all actions of the competitors with regard to shooting safety and rifle handling. Even the smallest violation of a safety regulation results in a disqualification. As a consequence of the very strictly enforced safety rules, Biathlon has an excellent safety record.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Biathlon competitions are conducted at a facility which has a central stadium area surrounded by a ski trail network. The stadium area consists of the shooting range normally with 27 to 30 targets, the start and finish areas including a mass start area, the 150 meter penalty loop, the technical building, ski test slope, team waxing huts, spectator areas and other necessary infrastructure. The shooting range is divided into lanes of 2.5 to 3 m in width with the targets placed at 50 m distance from the shooting ramp. The lanes and targets are numbered from right to left starting with number 1 on the extreme right, The range is divided into two parts for the Individual and Sprint competitions - prone shooting on the right and standing on the left,

Trail specifications are more or less demanding for the different types of competitions and are based on variations of height difference, maximum climb and total climb.

Targets are made of a white metal face plate with five holes in a horizontal row. Behind the holes in the face plate are the black hit plates which fall backward, or send an electronic pulse, when hit by a bullet and at the same time raising a white flap in front of the hole - thus causing a color change from black to white. When the target is scored, the black spots are counted to determine the number of penalties the competitor has. The targets may be

mechanical or electronic in operation but in both cases the fallen plates can be reset from the firing point either by a rope or electronic impulse.

CLASSES OF COMPETITORS

In international events there are four classes of competitors: Men, Women, Junior Men and Junior Women. A Junior becomes a Man or a Woman on November 1 of the year of their 20th birthday and there is no minimum age for the Junior classes. Men and Women cannot compete in Junior events but Juniors may compete with the senior classes. Separate events are held for the senior and junior classes, including World Championships. National events normally include youth and masters classes and the Canadian events classes of competitors can be found in the Hosting Policy.

TYPES OF COMPETITIONS

There are six international types of competitions: Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start, Relay and Team of which four are in the program of the Olympic Winter Games - Team and Mass Start are not included in the Olympic Games.

The following table gives the specifications for each type of competition.

Class	Type of Competition	Start Type	Ski Loops	Shooting	Shot Penalty
Men	20 km Individual	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	5	P, S, P, S	1 min
	10 km Sprint	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	3	P, S	150 m
	12.5 km Pursuit	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	15 km Mass Start	Mass	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	4 x 7.5 km Relay	Mass & Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 rounds	150 m
Women	15 km Individual	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	5	P, S, P, S	1 min
	7.5 km Sprint	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	3	P, S	150 m
	10 km Pursuit	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	12.5 km Mass Start	Mass	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	4 x 7.5 km Relay	Mass & Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 rounds	150 m
Junior Men	15 km Individual	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	5	P, S, P, S	1 min
	10 km Sprint	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	3	P, S	150 m
	12.5 km Pursuit	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	12.5 km Mass Start	Mass	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	4 x 7.5 km Relay	Mass & Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 rounds	150 m
Junior Women	12.5 km Individual	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	5	P, S, P, S	1 min
	7.5 km Sprint	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	3	P, S	150 m
	10 km Pursuit	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S	150 m

	10 km Mass Start	Mass	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	3 x 7.5 km Relay	Mass & Tag	3	+ 3 rounds	150 m
Youth Men	12.5 km Individual	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	5	P, S, P, S	1 min
	7.5 km Sprint	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	3	P, S	150 m
	10 km Pursuit	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	10 km Mass Start	Mass	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	4 x 6 km Relay	Mass & Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 rounds	150 m
Youth Women	10 km Individual	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	5	P, S, P, S	1 min
	6 km Sprint	Single, 30 sec, 45 sec, 1 min	3	P, S	150 m
	7.5 km Pursuit	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	7.5 km Mass Start	Mass	5	P, P, S, S	150 m
	3 x 6 km Relay	Mass & Tag	3	+ 3 rounds	150 m

The Canada Winter Games which is held every four years, odd numbered, is a junior games and includes the Biathlon Individual, Sprint and Relay competitions for both Junior Women and Junior Men.

PARTICIPATION, ENTRIES, DRAWS

Participation at IBU events is set by specific regulations for each type of event. For example, the number of competitors that a nation may enter into a World Cup competition is based on a quota which is the result of the nation's performance, while World Championships participation is based primarily on the right of every nation to enter four Men and four Women into both the Individual and Sprint competitions. The team leaders of each team will decide how many and who they will enter into each competition. Start numbers of competitors for Individual and Sprint competitions are done by random draw 24 to 15 hours before the competition. Team leaders place their competitors into one of four to two draw groups, normally one in each. This is done so that the team leaders have some tactical choice, based on weather conditions and the competitors capabilities, about in which part of the field their competitors will start. Assignment of start numbers for other competitions is subject to various conditions and is described under the specific competition

COMPETITION CONCEPTS AND DESCRIPTIONS

The Individual Competition

This is the traditional Biathlon competition which was established before the invention of the mechanical target in which hits and misses can be seen from the firing point. Originally, paper targets were used and were scored after the last shooting was done. Each competitor was then given a penalty of added time for misses. Today the same principle applies but the misses can be seen on a shot-to-shot basis. Shooting is more important in the Individual competition, with its one minute penalty, than the other types which have a penalty loop of 150 m - which takes about 25 to 30 seconds to ski.

The Individual is the longest in skiing distance of all Biathlon competitions and has four bouts of shooting for all classes of competitors. The difficulty for a novice spectator is that there is no certainty of knowing who is leading at any given time although intermediate times provide some indication of placing at a given time. The Individual competition takes about one hour to complete for each competitor. Men will start by skiing 4 km and then shooting, continuing the sequence until they have shot four times, with a 4 km ski loop between bouts, and then completing the 20 km with the last 4 km loop to the finish. Women will do generally the same but with slightly shorter ski loops for the 15 km competition.

Participation in the Individual competition is based on the various quotas set for events.

The Sprint Competition

The Sprint is a speeded-up, shortened version of the Individual in which skiing speed is more important than shooting. Instead of the one minute penalty for missed targets, the competitor must ski a 150 m penalty loop immediately after shooting. With shorter distances and only two bouts of shooting for all classes, the skiing times are around 30 minutes. The Men will ski three loops of 3, 4 and 3 km interspersed with two bouts of shooting. Women will ski three 2.5 km loops in the same format.

Participation in the Sprint competition is set by the quotas for various events.

The Pursuit Competition

The eligibility to compete, and the start order and intervals, in a Pursuit competition are based on a qualifying competition which is normally held the previous day. Both the Sprint and the Individual competitions can be used as the qualifying competition but the Sprint is the norm. The total participation in World Championships and World Cup Pursuit competitions is 60.

The basic concept of the Pursuit is that the winner of the qualifying competition starts first and the remainder follow in the order and time that they finished behind the winner in the qualifying competition. The Pursuit is highly exciting because it can be seen at any time who is leading and because of the psychology of the competitors pursuing the athletes ahead of them. The first competitor to cross the finish line is the winner, subject to any penalties or time adjustments. If competitors are lapped in the competition, they must withdraw immediately.

The Mass Start Competition

With a simultaneous start by all of the competitors, the Mass Start offers the ultimate in excitement and suspense for spectators. The format of the Mass Start is similar to the Individual except the distances are shorter and shooting follows the sequence of prone, prone, standing, standing. Normal participation is limited to 27, which is the minimum number of targets required for a World Cup event, because each competitor requires a target at approximately the same time due to the simultaneous start.

Participation in the Mass Start is based on the top rankings of the current World Cup total score, and in the case of the World Championships also on the three medallists of the Individual, Sprint and Pursuit competitions. If competitors are lapped in the competition, they must withdraw immediately.

The Relay Competition

Relay competitions for both Men and Women consists of four team members skiing 7.5 km with two bouts of shooting. The first starter of each team will start in a simultaneous mass start, ski 2.5 km, shoot prone, ski 2.5 km, shoot standing and then continue with the last 2.5 km to tag the next team member, or in the case of the last competitor - ski to the finish line. The first competitor to physically cross the finish line is the winner, subject to any penalties for rule violations or other time adjustments. The Relay is very exciting because spectators can see who is leading at any time. Additionally, each competitor in a Relay competition carries three spare rounds. If all five targets are not knocked down with the first five rounds, the spares may be used. The concept is that because of the intense pressure in the Relay, the competitor may wish to shoot extremely fast and of course then be able to get away quickly if all five targets are hit. However, if all five targets are not hit with the five rounds in the magazine the spare rounds must be loaded individually by hand, which takes much more time and is very difficult under pressure. In order to ensure that Relay competitions do not stretch too long in time, there are two methods to eliminate extremely slow teams as follows. First, after the last member of the fifth team has crossed the finish line all teams which have not yet reached the shooting range will be stopped at the entrance to the range – teams which are on the range at that time will be allowed to complete the competition. Secondly, any competitor who is lapped during the competition must immediately withdraw from the competition.

Participation in a Relay is set by event rules and start numbers are determined by random draw. The start number represents both the team's start track and shooting lane number, and are color coded: red – first leg; green – second; yellow – third; blue fourth.

THE COMPETITION DAY

The following is an example of the general format of a competition day. Daily programs will vary considerably based on the type of competition. This example is based on a Biathlon World Cup Individual competition day with a 1000 hrs start time for Men and 1300 hrs start time for Women, and 100 competitors in both classes, and a 30 second start interval.

0900	Zeroing starts - Men
0945	Zeroing ends
1000:30	First start - Men
1050	Last start
1100	First finish (approximate)
1150	Last finish (approximate)
1155	Interim Results posted (approximate)
1210	Protest time ends, Final Results, Flower Ceremony, Press conference
1200	Zeroing starts - Women
1245	Zeroing ends
1300:30	First start - Women
1350	Last start
1350	First finish (approximate)
1440	Last finish (approximate)
1445	Interim Results posted (approximate)
1500	Protest time ends, Final Results, Flower Ceremony, Press conference

RULES

The technical rules which are used for all IBU Biathlon competitions are the IBU Event and Competition Rules 1998. In Canada, the IBU rules are used but some variations are regulated by the Biathlon Canada Hosting Policy.

JURIES AND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Two types of Juries are set up for all IBU events: a Jury of Appeal and a Competition Jury separately for Men and Women.

The Jury of Appeal will deal with appeals made about decisions of the Competition Juries but has no powers to initiate actions on its own part. The Jury of Appeal is chaired by a member of the IBU Executive Board who is the official senior representative of IBU at the event, and will have as members any other Executive Board members who are present at the event, with the remainder of the five members being elected from among the team captains. In Canada, the same system is used with Biathlon Canada appointed people.

The Competition Juries will deal with all competition related matters and protests, and is the only body which can impose penalties. Both Competition Juries are chaired by the Technical Delegate appointed by IBU (Biathlon Canada in Canada) and will have as members the Competition Chief and three elected team captains.

There are five technical officials appointed by IBU to oversee the conduct of international Biathlon competitions: the Technical Delegate with overall responsibility and four International Referees to officiate at the Course, Range, Start/Finish and for Material Control. For the Olympic Winter Games, there are a Technical Delegate, Assistant Technical Delegate and eight International Referees.

For more information about the exciting and challenging sport of Biathlon, please contact the Biathlon Canada office or your provincial or territorial Biathlon association.

