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IBU EVENT AND COMPETITION RULES

Adopted by the 1998 IBU Congress with amendments by the 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 Congresses

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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 Art. 1.4.2 of the IBU Constitution) these rules will be applied unless changes, which have been authorized by the IBU, are specified in the invitation.

1.2 CLASSES OF COMPETITORS

The IBU competition season runs from 1 November to 31 October. Age classes for the entire IBU competition season are based on the competitor's age in the calendar year. IBU competitions are held in the following age classes: Men/Women, Junior and Youth

IBU AGE CLASS	ELIGIBLE ATHLETE YEAR OF BIRTH		
	Men/Women	Junior	Youth
01.11.14 - 31.10.15	1993 + older	1994-1995	1996-1999
01.11.15 - 31.10.16	1994 + older	1995-1996	1997-2000
01.11.16 - 31.10.17	1995 + older	1996-1997	1998-2001
01.11.17 - 31.10.18	1996 + older	1997-1998	1999-2002

1.2.1 Men and Women

Male and female competitors who have turned 21 at the cut-off-date 31 December will be classed as men and women respectively. From the season starting on 1 November of that same year onward, they may only start in men's or women's competitions, according to their gender.

1.2.2 Junior Men and Junior Women

Male and female competitors who have turned 19 at the cut-off-date of 31 December will be classed as junior men and junior women respectively. From the season starting on 1 November of that same year onward, they may only start in junior men's and junior women's competitions, according to their gender. Separate competitions will be organized for them. However, junior men will be permitted to participate in men's and junior women in women's competitions respectively, according to

gender. Moreover, juniors may only participate in one Relay competition at the OECH.

1.2.3 Youth Men and Youth Women

Competitors who have not yet reached junior men's or junior women's age as defined above and are at least 16 at the cut-off-date of 31 December will be classed as youth men or youth women respectively, and separate competitions will be organized for them. Youth men will be permitted to take part in men's and junior men's competitions, and youth women will be permitted to take part in women's and junior women's competitions. However, at an event they may start in only one and the same class of competitor in the Individual, Sprint and Pursuit competition. Moreover, youth athletes may only participate in one Relay competition at the Y/JWCH.

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

1.3 TYPES OF COMPETITIONS

The following types of competitions are established for IBU events:

1.3.1 Men

- a. 20 km Individual;
- b. 10 km Sprint;
- c. 12.5 km Pursuit;
- d. 4 x 7.5 km Relay;
- e. 15 km Mass Start;
- f. 6 km Super Sprint including 3.6 km Super Sprint Qualification.

1.3.2 Women

- a. 15 km Individual;
- b. 7.5 km Sprint;
- c. 10 km Pursuit;
- d. 4 x 6 km Relay;
- e. 12.5 km Mass Start;
- f. 4 km Super Sprint including 2.4 km Super Sprint Qualification.

1.3.3 Men and Women/Mixed Relays

- a. 2 x 6 km Women + 2 x 7.5 km Men
- b. 6 km Women + 7.5 km Men

1.3.4 Junior Men

- a. 15 km Individual;
- b. 10 km Sprint;
- c. 12.5 km Pursuit;
- d. 4 x 7.5 km Relay;
- e. 12.5 km Mass Start;
- f. 6 km Super Sprint including 2.4 km Super Sprint Qualification.

1.3.5 Junior Women

- a. 12.5 km Individual;
- b. 7.5 km Sprint;
- c. 10 km Pursuit;
- d. 3 x 6 km Relay;
- e. 10 km Mass Start;
- f. 4 km Super Sprint including 2.4 km Super Sprint Qualification.

1.3.6 Junior Men/Junior Women/Mixed Relays

- a. 2 x 6 km Junior Women + 2 x 7.5 km Junior Men
- b. 6 km Women + 7.5 km Men

1.3.7 Youth Men

- a. 12.5 km Individual (penalty 45 sec);
- b. 7.5 km Sprint;
- c. 10 km Pursuit;
- d. 3 x 7.5 km Relay;
- e. 10 km Mass Start
- f. 4 km Super Sprint including 2.4 km Super Sprint Qualification.

1.3.8 Youth Women

- a. 10 km Individual (penalty 45 sec);
- b. 6 km Sprint;
- c. 7.5 km Pursuit;
- d. 3 x 6 km Relay;
- e. 7.5 km Mass Start
- f. 4 km Super Sprint including 2.4 km Super Sprint Qualification.

1.3.9 Youth Men/Youth Women/Mixed Relays

- a. 2 x 6 km Youth Women + 2 x 7.5 km Youth Men
- b. 6 km Woman + 7.5 km Man

1.3.10 Competition Specifications

The following Table 1 and the appended notes set out the skiing and shooting specifications of classes of IBU competitors and types of competitions, and apply to all IBU events:

Column 1: Class of Competitor: according to these Rules. **Column 2:** Course Length and Type of Competition: according to these Rules. **Column 3:** Start Types and Intervals: the method by which the start is made and the interval between the starts of two consecutive competitors. **Column 4:** Number of Ski Loops: course rounds to be skied by the competitor. **Column 5:** Shooting Bouts and Shot Penalties: 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, and the automatic shot-penalty -1 minute of added time or a 150 m penalty loop - imposed on a competitor for each target left standing after all rounds for the bout have been fired. **Column 6:** Distance Between and Location of Shooting Bouts: the minimum distance between successive shooting bouts in the competition and the ski distances after which shooting must occur. **Column 7:** Total Climb (tc): the total vertical ascent 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. Class of Competitors	2. Course Length and Competition Type	3. Standard Start Types and Intervals	4. Ski Loops	5. Shooting Bouts and Shot Penalty 5 Rounds per Bout except Relay	6. Distance between and Location of Shooting Bouts	7. Total Climb
MEN	20 km INDIVIDUAL	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	5	P, S, P, S - 1 minute	4 km - 4 / 8 / 12 / 16 km	600 - 800 m
	10 km SPRINT	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	3	P, S - 150 m	3.3 km - 3 and 7 km	300 - 450 m
	12.5 km PURSUIT	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5 / 5 / 7.5 / 10 km	350 - 500 m
	15 km MASS START	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	3 km - 3 / 6 / 9 / 12 km	400 - 600 m
	4 x 7.5 km RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	200 - 300 m
	2.4 - 3.6 km SUPER SPRINT QUALIFIKATION	Single, 15 sec	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 2400 m	45 - 75 m
MEN WOMEN	4 - 6 km SUPER SPRINT FINAL	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S, (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 4800 m	60 - 125 m
	2 x 6 km (W) 2 x 7.5 km (M) MIXED RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag, W, W, M, M	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2 km - 2 and 4 km 2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	150 - 250 m 200 - 300 m

MEN	6 km (W) 7.5 km (M) SINGLE MIXED RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag, W, M	W - 4 M - 5	P, S (each athlete twice) + 3 rounds per bout - 75m	1.5 km - 1.5 and 3 km (each athlete twice)	160 - 240 m 200 - 300 m
WOMEN	15 km INDIVIDUAL	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	5	P, S, P, S - 1 minute	3 km - 3 / 6 / 9 / 12 km	400 - 600 m
	7,5 km SPRINT	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	3	P, S - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	200 - 300 m
	10 km PURSUIT	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2 km - 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 km	200 - 400 m
	12,5 km MASS START	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5 / 5 / 7.5 / 10 km	350 - 500 m
	4 x 6 km RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2 km - 2 and 4 km	150 - 250 m
	2.4 - 3.6 km SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	Single, 15 sec	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 2400 m	45 - 75 m
	4 - 6 km SUPER SPRINT FINAL	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S, (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 4800 m	60 - 125 m

1. Class of Competitors	2. Course Length and Competition Type	3. Standard Start Types and Intervals	4. Ski Loops	5. Shooting Bouts and Shot Penalty 5 Rounds per Bout except Relay	6. Distance between and Location of Shooting Bouts	7. Total Climb
JUNIOR MEN	15 km INDIVIDUAL	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	5	P, S, P, S - 1 minute	3 km - 3/6/9/12 km	400 - 600 m
	10 km SPRINT	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	3	P, S - 150 m	3.3 km - 3 and 7 km	300 - 450 m
	12.5 km PURSUIT	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5/5/7.5/10 km	350 - 500 m
	12.5 km MASS START	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5/5/7.5/10 km	350 - 500 m
	3 x 7.5 km RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	200 - 300 m
JUNIOR WOMEN	2.4 - 3.6 km SUPER SPRINT QUALIFIKATION	Single, 15 sec	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 2400 m	45 - 75 m
	4 - 6 km SUPER SPRINT FINAL	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S, (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 4800 m	60 - 125 m
	2 x 6 km (W) 2 x 7.5 km (M) MIXED RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag, W, W, M, M	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2 km - 2 and 4 km 2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	150 - 250 m 200 - 300 m

JUNIOR WOMEN MEN	6 km (W) 7.5 km (M) SINGLE MIXED RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag, W, M	W - 4 M - 5	P, S (each athlete twice) + 3 rounds per bout - 75m	1.5 km - 1.5 and 3 km (each athlete twice)	160 - 240 m 200 - 300 m
	12.5 km INDIVIDUAL	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	5	P, S, P, S - 1 minute	3 km - 3 / 6 / 9 / 12 km	400 - 600 m
JUNIOR WOMEN	7.5 km SPRINT	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	3	P, S - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	200 - 300 m
	10 km PURSUIT	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2 km - 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 km	200 - 400 m
	10 km MASS START	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2 km - 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 km	350 - 500 m
	3 x 6 km RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2 km - 2 and 4 km	150 - 250 m
	2.4 - 3.6 km SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	Single, 15 sec	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 2400 m	45 - 75 m
	4 - 6 km SUPER SPRINT FINAL	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S, (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 4800 m	60 - 125 m

1. Class of Competitors	2. Course Length and Competition Type	3. Standard Start Types and Intervals	4. Ski Loops	5. Shooting Bouts and Shot Penalty 5 Rounds per Bout except Relay	6. Distance between and Location of Shooting Bouts	7. Total Climb
YOUTH MEN	12.5 km INDIVIDUAL	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	5	P, S, P, S - 45 sec	3 km - 3 / 6 / 9 / 12 km	400 - 500 m
	7.5 km SPRINT	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	3	P, S - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	200 - 300 m
	10 km PURSUIT	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2 km - 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 km	200 - 400 m
	10 km MASS START	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	2 km - 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 km	200 - 400 m
	3 x 7.5 km RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	200 - 300 m
YOUTH WOMEN	2.4 - 3.6 km SUPER SPRINT QUALIFIKATION	Single, 15 sec	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 2400 m	45 - 75 m
	4 - 6 km SUPER SPRINT FINAL	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S, (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 4800 m	60 - 125 m
	2 x 6 km (W) 2 x 7.5 km (M) MIXED RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag, W, W, M, M	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2 km - 2 and 4 km 2.5 km - 2.5 and 5 km	150 - 250 m 200 - 300 m

YOUTH WOMEN MEN	6 km (W) 7.5 km (M) SINGLE MIXED RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag, W, M	W - 4 M - 5	P, S (each athlete twice) + 3 rounds per bout - 75m	1.5 km - 1.5 and 3 km (each athlete twice)	160 - 240 m 200 - 300 m
YOUTH WOMEN	10 km INDIVIDUAL	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	5	P, S, P, S - 45 sec	2 km - 2 / 4 / 6 / 8 km	200 - 350 m
	6 km SPRINT	Single, 30 sec, 1 minute	3	P, S - 150 m	2 km - 2 and 4 km	150 - 250 m
	7.5 km PURSUIT	Pursuit	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	1.5 km - 1.5 / 3 / 4.5 / 6 km	200 - 300 m
	7.5 km MASS START	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S - 150 m	1.5 km - 1.5 / 3 / 4.5 / 6 km	200 - 300 m
	3 x 6 km RELAY	Simultaneous and Tag	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - 150 m	2 km - 2 and 4 km	150 - 250 m
	2.4 - 3.6 km SUPER SPRINT QUALIFICATION	Single, 15 sec	3	P, S (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 2400 m	45 - 75 m
	4 - 6 km SUPER SPRINT FINAL	Simultaneous	5	P, P, S, S, (each) + 3 Spare Rounds per Bout - Penalty = Disqualification	800 m - 4800 m	60 - 125 m

1.3.11 Specifications for Single Mixed Relay and Super Sprint

- a. Each team competing in the single mixed relay is comprised of one woman and one man. 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. Lapped competitors will be stopped when they pass the penalty loop timing point after being lapped. 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 Sprints consist of a qualification and a final competition, which take place on the same day.

1.3.12 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.

1.3.13 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).

1.3.14 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.

1.4 ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR COMPETITORS AND TEAM STAFF

1.4.1 General

Only such competitors and team staff who comply with the following IBU regulations will be eligible to take part in biathlon events and competitions organized by an IBU member federation. In order to be eligible to participate in an IBU event, biathletes and team staff must sign the IBU Declaration of Obligations, the Court of Arbitration Declaration and the Declaration to Fight Doping in Sport, signifying agreement to

abide by and follow all IBU rules and policies. Competitors and team staff members must sign these declarations prior to taking part in their first IBU competition and must include a copy of their passport with their signed declaration.

Each signed declaration will remain in effect until terminated by either party.

1.4.2 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 Rules for Advertising. 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 are requested to certify their nationality, age and gender with their national passport or official photo identification document.

1.4.3 Qualification Criteria

1.4.3.1 Olympic Winter Games

To gain the right to participate in OWG events, a competitor must have 180 IBU qualifying points at the end of the last trimester before the OWG, or fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or previous season:

- a. Compete in two competitions earning 150 IBU qualifying points or less at IBU Cup, OECH, WCH and/or WC in the Sprint or Individual, or
- b. Two finishes in the top half at the JWCH (not Youth), or
- c. One result from each of the criteria a. and b. above.

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

1.4.3.2 World Championships

To gain the right to participate in WCH events, a competitor must have 180 IBU qualifying points at the end of the last trimester before the WCH, or fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or previous season:

- a. Compete in at least one competition earning 150 IBU qualifying points or less at an IBU Cup, OECH, WC or OWG in the Sprint or Individual, or
 - b. One finish in the top half at the JWCH (not Youth).
- All members of Relay teams must also have met this individual qualification requirement.

1.4.3.3 World Cup

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. To gain the right to participate in WC events, a competitor must have 150 IBU qualifying points at the end of the last trimester, or fulfill one of the following criteria during the current or preceding trimester:

- a. Compete in at least one competition earning 125 IBU qualifying points or less at an IBU Cup, OECH, WCH or OWG in the Sprint or Individual or
- b. One finish in the top half at the JWCH (not Youth).

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

To retain the right to participate in the next WC trimester in which a competitor chooses to start, the competitor must maintain 150 IBU qualifying points or less in the current trimester.

1.4.3.4 IBU Qualifying Point Calculations

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

IBU Qualifying Points =

$\{(\text{athlete's time/winner's time}) - 1\} \times \text{Race Factor} + \text{Race Penalty}$

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).

1.4.3.5 IBU Qualifying Points List

After each trimester, or at other times as scheduled and announced annually by the IBU EB, the IBU qualifying points list will be updated by taking the average of each competitor's best results from the previous three trimesters according to the following rules:

COMPETITIONS SCORED IN LAST 3 TRIMESTERS	CALCULATION FOR POINTS LIST
3 or more	Average of the best 3
2	Average 2 x 1.10
1	Points earned x 1.2
Removal from list	After 5 trimesters with no points scored

1.4.3.6 Safety at all IBU Events

Athletes who start for the first time 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 competition if the competition jury/RD have reason to suspect they cannot safely handle the sports equipment.

*** new qualification criteria effective from season 2015/ 2016**

1.4.4 Force Majeure/Extraordinary Circumstances

Competitors who are hindered in achieving WC qualification at the WC level due to force majeure and/or extraordinary circumstances may submit a petition to the RD for consideration by the competition jury at that event. A special committee consisting of three members, VP Sport, Race Director and the chairman of the Technical Committee, will determine if the competitor's qualification is to remain valid for the next trimester in which the competitor starts.

1.5 REGISTRATION AND ENTRY

1.5.1 Notice of Intent to Participate at IBU Events

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

1.5.1.1 Registration, Replacements and Accommodation Reservations

Registration is the early notification of intent to participate. The numbers of competitors and team staff members that may be registered for an event are detailed in the event-specific rules. Registration for events must be done as follows:

a. WCH and Y/JWCH

At the WCH and Y/JWCH, the estimated number of competitors and team staff (registration by number) must be received by the OC

two months before the official arrival day for the WCH or Y/JWCH. At least 14 days before the official arrival day of the WCH or Y/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 one month 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 14 days 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 one month before official arrival day for registration by number, and at least 14 days 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 the OC accepts the registration and if it is approved by the RD or – in his absence – the TD.

- f. Accommodation reservation
Preliminary accommodation reservations must be submitted to the OC two months before the official arrival day of the WCH/ YJWCH, and for all other IBU competitions one month before. Final accommodation reservation must be submitted 14 days before the official arrival day and are then financially binding.
- 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

- 1.5.1.2** By sending a registration, NFs confirm and implicitly guarantee that all members of the team are covered by accident and liability insurance and that the athletes of the team are medically fit to compete.

1.5.2 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 by the stated deadline (normally, at least two hours before the draw) for the Individual, Sprint and Super Sprint Qualification competitions at all IBU events.
- b. At all IBU events, teams must be entered in Relay and Mixed Relay competitions not later than two hours before the team captains' meeting for the competition or the draw, if one takes place. Names of Relay competitors must be submitted in start order by 16:00 hours on the day before the relay. In extraordinary circumstances or if competitions are held in the evening, the deadline for entering competitors will be determined by the RD/TD.

- 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 current WC total score standings, and at WCH on previous competitions. Names of athletes qualified for the Mass Start competition must be confirmed by a signed, written form presented to the competition office as soon as possible and at least two hours before the start. The numbers of competitors that may be entered in a competition are stated in the event rules.
- e. Entries in the Super Sprint (qualification and final) competition will be based on the information presented in the event invitation. The IBU will define the system of qualification in cooperation with the OC.
- f. The OC must provide a current weather forecast 30 minutes before the entry deadline so that the teams have the latest information for preparing their entries.

1.5.3 Registration Procedures

As stated in the invitation, registration must be sent in writing, by post, fax, email 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.

1.5.4 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.

1.5.5 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 and Relay competitions.

1.5.6 Replacement of Registered Athletes

If a team is allowed to register only four or less competitors because of its quota, the competition jury may allow the team to replace a competitor with a non-registered competitor such that the team may compete in Relay competitions.

1.6 DRAW AND ASSIGNMENT OF START NUMBERS

1.6.1 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.

1.6.1.1 The method of the draw must be approved by the RD /TD.

1.6.2 Time of Draws

The draw for any competition must not be held earlier than 24 hours before and not later than 15 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 competition 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.

1.6.3 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, if it is necessary due to event circumstances. Such outside draws must be supervised by the TD and at least two competition jury members.

1.6.3.1 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.

1.6.4 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.

1.6.4.1 Start Group System for WC, WCH and OWG:

- a. At a WC, competitors must be entered in draw groups as described in 1.6.3.1 above. The top-10 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 one of the four draw groups.

Additionally, unranked competitors and/or those ranked outside the maximum of top 80 in the current World Cup total score may only be entered in draw groups 3 and 4. 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. In the event that a top-80 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. In the case of extraordinary weather conditions, the jury may suspend the requirement for unranked competitors and competitors ranked outside the maximum of top 80 to start in groups 3 and four. This decision must be announced at least two hours prior to the entry deadline for the respective competition.

- b. At the OWG and WCH, competitors must be entered in draw groups as described in 1.6.3.1 above. The top-10 ranked competitors from the current WC total score may be placed in any draw group. However, a NF may not place more than two competitors in any one of the four draw groups, including the current world champion.
- c. Under unusual weather conditions at the WCH, the competition jury may alter the grouping system. This decision must be announced two hours before the entries are due. The exception to be applied is as follows:

At the WCH there are five draw groups, and each NF may enter a maximum of two competitors per draw group. The first two draw groups are reserved for competitors ranked in the top-50 of the current WC total score. NFs may enter up to a maximum of two per draw group. NFs with competitors in the top-50 are free to enter them in any draw group they choose. Draw group three is reserved for athletes who are on the current World Cup total score list, but not among the top-50. However, these competitors may be entered in draw groups 4 and 5 as the NF chooses (maximum two per draw group).

Those competitors who have not scored World Cup points, and are therefore not on the current World Cup total score list, may only be entered in draw groups 4 and 5, maximum two per draw group.

The previous year's World or Olympic Champion may be entered in any draw group respecting the NF's limit of two per draw group.

1.6.4.2 Draw for Group Starts in Sprint and Individual Competitions

At international events other than the OWG, WCH, Y/JWCH, WC, OECH, and IBU Cup, competitors in Sprint and Individual 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.

1.6.4.3 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.

1.6.4.4 Assignment of Start Numbers and Start Positions Mass Start Competition

A provisional start list will be made within two hours after the last qualifying competition. The start list will be finalized two hours before the start, by which time team captains must have confirmed their starters. Start numbers at WCH and WC 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. 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.

1.6.5 Assignment of Start Numbers for Relay Competitions

1.6.5.1 Method of Assigning Relay/Mixed Relay Start Numbers

At OWG, WCH and WC events, no draw will be made for the Relay/Mixed Relay, and start numbers will be assigned based on the current standings in the WC Relay or Mixed Relay score – 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 or Mixed Relay of the season, the previous year's final Relay or Mixed Relay score standings will be used to set the start numbers. At Y/JWCH and OECH, the previous year's Y/JWCH or OECH Relay/Mixed Relay results ranking will be used to set the start numbers in the same manner as above. 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 apply at the IBU Cup.

1.6.5.2 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.

1.6.5.3 Extra Relay Teams

Extra relay teams will not be permitted at OWG, WCH, Y/JWCH WC, IBU Cup and OECH 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.

1.7 TEAM CAPTAINS' MEETINGS

1.7.1 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 at the latest on the day before the first day of official training in order to elect the jury of appeal and the competition jury. 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.

1.7.2 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/Asst. RD/TD(s) and IRs;
- 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.

1.7.3 Team Captains Meeting Agenda

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

- Call to order;
- Roll call of countries (or teams);
- Election of the jury of appeal and competition juries (first meeting);
- Draw(s);
- Technical briefing for the next competition(s);
- RD/Ass. RD and/or TD's comments;
- Weather forecast;
- Miscellaneous;
- Adjournment.

- 1.7.4 Start lists for the Individual and Sprint competitions should be issued to the teams at the end of the meeting. Start numbers may be given after the meeting or in the competition office.

1.8 RULES FOR NON-COMPETING PERSONS

1.8.1 General

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

1.8.2 Specific Rules

1.8.2.1 On the Shooting Range

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, including 10 m from the left and right shooting lanes. 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.

1.8.2.2 On the Course

Non-competing persons are permitted to run for up to 50 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. The stadium area will be marked, and within this area, running beside competitors is forbidden. Additional no-coaching zones may be established on the course by the RD responsible for the event.

1.8.3 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, YJWCH);
- 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.

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

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 the IBU Disciplinary Rules.

2.3.1.1 Time of Election

The competition juries to be established for an event must be elected at the latest on the day 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 IR (for IBU Cup/SB WCH, one IR assigned by the IBU);
- c. the Competition Chief;
- d. Two team officials elected by the team captains from two different NFs.

The RD will be present at all meetings but will not have the right to vote. At the OWG, the RD will serve as Asst. TD.

2.3.2.1 Only one person from one and the same NF or with the same nationality 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 provisional 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 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 against penalties and disciplinary measures imposed by the competition jury at events where a jury of appeal has been established. In any other events an appeal can be lodged to the IBU Executive Board in writing within 24 hours after the decision of the competition jury.

The appeal must be made to the jury of appeal or Executive Board, and be put forward in accordance with the IBU Disciplinary Rules.

2.4 RACE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT RACE DIRECTOR

2.4.1 The World Cup Race Director and the IBU Cup Race Director and their Assistants are officials appointed by the IBU.

- 2.4.2** 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 TECHNICAL DELEGATES

2.5.1 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.

2.5.2 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. Two TDs will be appointed for the OWG, one as an assistant TD. For all other events, one TD will be appointed. TDs for IBU Junior Cup & Junior OECH events may be from the host NF.

- 2.5.2.1** The TD will be 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.

- 2.5.2.2** TD's functions only apply for the event for which they have been appointed.

2.5.3 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.

2.5.4 TD Expenses

OCs of IBU events and competitions are responsible for paying the TDs' travel, accommodation and meal expenses for the period of the TDs' duty, and daily allowance as stipulated by the IBU regulations in force at the time.

2.6 IBU REFEREES

2.6.1 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.

2.6.2 Appointment of IBU Referees

IBU Referees appointed by the TC for the OWG, WCH, Y/JWCH, WC, and OECH 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 IBU Cup events, one of them must hold a valid TD license. In order to serve as an IBU Rs in another country, the person must have held a valid IR license for at least four years; however, exceptions may be permitted by the TC. At OWG, WCH, WC, OECH and Y/JWCH, all appointed IBU Rs must be from outside the host country and members of the TD Group. At the IBU Cup, the Course and Materials Inspection IBU Rs must be from the TD Group and at least one of them must not be from the host country. At CCH and CC, all IBU Rs may be from the host country.

2.6.3 IBU Referee Functions at Competitions

The functional areas where IBU Rs will be employed at competitions will be:

- start/finish;
- shooting range;
- course;
- materials inspection.

2.6.4 Numbers of IBU Rs for Events

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

- a. OWG 8 (all appointed by the IBU)
- b. WCH 4 (all appointed by the IBU)
- c. Y/JWCH 4 (all appointed by the IBU)
- d. WC 4 (all appointed by the IBU)

- e. IBU Cup 4 (2 IBU Rs appointed by the IBU, 2 by the NF)
- f. OECH 4 (all appointed by the IBU)
- g. CCH 4 (all appointed by NF)
- h. CC 4 (all appointed by NF)
- i. Junior IBU Cup (all appointed by NF)

2.6.5 IBU Rs Tasks and Duties

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

2.6.6 IBU Rs Expenses

OCs of events and competitions will be responsible for paying the IBU Rs travel, accommodation and meal expenses and daily allowance as stipulated by the IBU regulations in force at the time for the period of the IBU Rs employment.

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, 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 Y/JWCH, OECH, IBU Cup and SB WCH events must have an IBU B license. Venues for OWG must acquire an IBU A license.

3.1.1 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, so as 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 lay-outs are given in the OC Guidelines.

3.1.1.1 Maximum Distance and Altitude Difference

The competition venue for the OWGs 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.

3.1.1.2 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.

3.1.1.3 Electronic Information Board

At OWG, WCH, Y/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.

3.1.2 Artificial Lighting

IBU competitions may be held under artificial lighting when approved by the EB as part of a given program. Under exceptional circumstances, the competition jury may authorize a competition to be held under artificial lighting. In any case, the lighting must meet the following standards:

- Lighting conditions must be the same for all competitors with a minimum of approximately 300 lux across the entire length of the course and stadium, without any dark areas. 1000 lux are required

- on the finish line, targets and zeroing paper targets without any shadows.
- If TV is involved, the light conditions must satisfy TV requirements and be at least 1000 lux in the stadium.

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 warm-up 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, and space for a minimum of 20 rifle racks able to hold at least seven rifles each, or as otherwise directed by the RD /TD.

3.2.2 Individual and Sprint Competition Start Areas

The start area for Individual and Sprint competitions must be approximately 8-10 m long and a minimum of 2 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 a minimum of four start lanes. The actual number of start lanes will be determined by the number of simultaneous starts in the start list – if there are five starts in the same second, there must be five start lanes, etc. 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 separate passage or lane 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, YJWCH, WC, OECH, IBU Cup, and Junior IBU Cup, a transponder timing point must be installed 1.5 m after the start

line with a video camera installed to capture the relative start time of each competitor in case of 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 All Relays, Group, Mass Start and Super Sprint 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 – All Relays/Mixed Relays, Group, Mass Start and Super Sprint 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 20 x 20 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 and Sprint 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 side 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 1.3.10 in Table 1.

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, Gradient and Length**

The maximum altitude of any part of the course may not be higher than 1,800 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. The maximum grade for all climbs on the competition course must not exceed 25 percent.

3.3.3 Setting of Tracks

If required, tracks will also be laid in downhill sections as directed by the RD. Tracks must not be set in such a way or in places where they may endanger or hinder competitors. The width and depth of tracks must be set so that all regular types of boots and bindings can be used without side friction. For training days, tracks for classic skiing must be provided at the edge of the competition course.

3.3.4 Safety

The course must be prepared so that a competitor may ski it at full speed without undue risk of an accident.

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 1.5 km course must be marked 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

All trails that will not be used in the competition must be closed. 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, 20 cm high, 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 IR Course will decide whether to use forerunners or not.

3.3.9 Course Specifications for Competitions

Table 1 under 1.3.10 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 50 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 1 m-long red line on the right and left side and with signs "Hand-over Start" and "Hand-over End". 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 be straight. 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, 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 6 m wide and 150 m (+/- 5 m) long, 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 Ski Test Area

At all IBU events, a ski glide test area must be set up on slightly sloping terrain in or near the stadium area, min 6 m wide including sufficient

space to accommodate the traffic flow ascending the slope. The glide test downhill slope should have a gradient of 8 to 12° and be a minimum of 30 m long. The test area must be prepared and groomed in the same way as the competition trails. In the ski test area there must be an information board on which the temperature of the air and the snow at the highest and lowest points of the course profile must be shown and updated three hours prior to the first start and thereafter every 30 minutes until the last competitor has started.

3.3.13 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 huts, 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. A warm-up course should also be in place for all other events.

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 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 sign boards. An exception to the right and left configuration is to be made during Pursuit, Mass Start 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 three team staff members per team. 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. Both sides of each lane must be marked from the ramp to the targets with seven (7) T-posts with sign boards max. 20 cm wide by 15 cm high, in alternating colors matching the background color of the target numbers that clearly define the lanes but do not interfere with shooting. 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 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 two main kinds of targets used in biathlon – metal and paper. Only metal targets are permitted to be used for competition and only paper targets will be used for rifle zeroing. Both paper and metal 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, and all other events with live TV/webcasting coverage must have a remote reset capability (without 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.

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. 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 – black on yellow and yellow on black – starting at number 1 with black on yellow and matching the T-post lane markers, or in other contrasting 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 official training, wind flags must be installed at the side of every second shooting lane beginning at the right side of lane 1, at 5 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 at the same level as the bottom edge of the targets and cannot obstruct a direct line of sight to the targets.

3.4.7 Rifle Racks

During competitions there must be racks for two reserve rifles for each participating team. The racks must be clearly marked with the names of the participating nations or teams. A minimum of one rifle rack must be provided per shooting lane in use for training or zeroing, holding seven rifles each. 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 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 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.

3.5.2 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 ten rifle racks holding at least seven rifles each.

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. The 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 with a total number of competitors entered to start (men's and women's classes) 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. 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 containers must be provided near the waxing cabins as changing areas for the competitors. This can be a part of the stadium building, a separate warming shelter or a tent.

4. COMPETITION EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING FOR EVENTS

4.1 GENERAL RULES

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 Rules for Advertising.

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 materials/equipment and clothing check is to be provided well in advance of a competition 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. No equipment, materials or clothing may be used at an IBU event unless they have been approved by the IBU.

4.2.2 Pre-Start Materials/Equipment and Clothing Inspection

Competitors must report at the start materials/equipment and clothing inspection area not later than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled time of start to have their skis and rifle checked and marked, and their clothing inspected. Competitors who arrive later than 15 minutes before their start 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. Equipment, rifles, materials and clothing that have been inspected and marked 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. 1.4.2. Team reserve rifles – maximum two per team – are to be brought to the materials/equipment and clothing checkpoint for inspection and marking, and then must be taken directly to the range and deposited in the reserve rifle racks before the first start. The range staff will not permit rifles to be deposited after this time. To facilitate the inspection of the reserve rifles, the materials/equipment and clothing checkpoint must be opened at least 15 minutes before the start of zeroing and the competitors will have the right to have their rifles checked from that time onwards. The early opening of the pre-start equipment inspection will be permitted and encouraged at all competitions in order to avoid time difficulties.

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 live cartridge in the chamber or in its inserted magazine;

- c. The weight, trigger resistance, dimensions and shape of the rifle, and the advertising on it will be checked for correctness. The rifle will be marked with a small sticker affixed to the top front end part of the stock that must be clearly visible to officials at the start and finish, and the serial number will be recorded on a check list so that the rifle can be verified at the finish in case the sticker falls off;
- d. Skis and poles will be checked for correctness;
- e. Clothing and other materials/equipment will be inspected for correctness, including advertising.

4.2.2.2 Markings

Equipment will be marked to prevent unauthorized changes of equipment during the competition by using another competitor's start number. Both skis and rifles will be marked. In Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start competitions, only one color will be used to mark the skis. The equipment will be marked with a colored marker pen or stamp, and will be unique for that competition. In Relay competitions, the skis must be marked according to the team start numbers and the colors or numbers of the start sequence within the team. Rifle inspection stickers must be placed on the top front end part of the stock.

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 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 skis and rifle are properly marked;
- c. That advertising regulations are not being violated;
- d. That by opening and closing the action of the rifles, that there is no round in the chamber or the inserted magazine;
- 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 and ammunition to complete the competition. Magazines may be spot-checked 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. 1.4.2.

4.2.3 Finish Inspection

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

- a. That the rifles do not contain live ammunition in the chamber or inserted magazine;
- b. That competitors have finished with at least one marked ski and their marked rifle, with their skis and poles being in accordance with the Materials Catalogue;
- c. That the rifle trigger resistance is at least 0.5 kg (may be conducted as a spot check, if authorized by the RD/ TD);
- d. That the advertising regulations have not been violated.

All ammunition on the stock and in other magazines will be removed at this inspection.

4.2.4 Preliminary Examination of Materials/Equipment and Clothing

At all IBU events, the RD/ TD, and IR for Materials Inspection will conduct a preliminary inspection of equipment to confirm that the materials, equipment and clothing to be used by teams are permitted by the rules. The check will normally be done at least two days before the first competition. The preliminary examination does not relieve competitors of the obligation to pass equipment inspection at the start and finish.

4.2.4.1 Attendance

The examination will be conducted by the responsible organizing committee staff. The IR for Materials Inspection must also be in attendance. The examination is mandatory. Competitors or teams who are not present at the first WC or IBU Cup or who have changed their competition equipment or clothing must make this inspection prior to their first start of the season.

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 other gender; 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.

5.1.3 Types of Training

“Official training” is the period of time that the OC must provide for training on the facility. The facility must be prepared the same as for the competition. “Training” is the time that the OC allows for training on the facility in addition to official training, when the facility does not have to be prepared as for the competition. OCs should allow as much time as is possible in the event program for training – if necessary, shooting lanes will be allocated for teams as for official training, as directed by the TD.

5.2 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.

The RD/TD may order classic skiing tracks to be prepared on the side of the course for training purposes. Each subsequent competition should also be preceded by 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 training according to Art. 5.3.3.1 unless specifically changed by the RD/TD. At all other events a simple draw should be done.

After 20 minutes, the top 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.

5.3 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.

5.3.2 Paper targets used for zeroing must be placed at the same level and the same distance (+/- 20 cm) from the shooting lane as the competition targets. When two rows of paper targets are placed, the second row must be below 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 top 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 and Sprint competitions, each team should be allocated one zeroing lane on the range. Lanes will be allocated by random draw conducted under supervision of the RD/TD. At Relay competitions, the

team zeroing lane is to be the same as the start number. At Mass Start 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 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 at Pursuit and Mass Start competitions. 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. If necessary, men and women may both be zeroed prior to the first Super Sprint final competition but this must be done separately.

5.3.3.1 At the OWG, WCH, WC, and Y/JWCH events, shooting lanes 1-5 will be allocated by 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 Nations Cup score will apply in the first trimester, thereafter the current Nations Cup score will apply. Likewise for the IBU Cup/OECH: the IBU Cup Nations Cup score will be used.

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

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 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; and two standard start intervals – one minute or 30 seconds. At all IBU events, the following regulations will apply:

6.1.2 Individual and Sprint Competitions

Competitors will be started individually at all Individual and Sprint competitions, normally with 30 second 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 Competitions

In Mass Start 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. The start sequence in the Mixed Relay is woman, woman, man, man.

6.1.6 Super Sprint Competition

6.1.6.1 In the Super Sprint qualification competition, all competitors start, individually with an interval of 15 seconds between each competitor.

6.1.6.2 In the Super Sprint final competition, all competitors start in one single simultaneous start, with three lanes.

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. Each simultaneous start must be from a separate lane. An analysis of each start will be done by an official.. Competitors themselves are responsible for starting and must start at their assigned start time from their assigned lane.

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 competition starts in the same way as for the first starters in the Relay simultaneous start.

6.2.7 Super Sprint Competition Start

The start order for the Super Sprint qualification competition will be decided by the OC together with the IBU for the respective competition. In the Super Sprint final competition, competitors will be assigned start numbers and start positions based on the results of the Super Sprint qualification competition. Competitors in the Super Sprint final competition will start in the same order in which they finished the qualification competition: the winner of the qualification competition will start with start number 1; the competitor placed second in the qualification competition will start with start number 2, and so on.

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 competitors' 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 and Mass Start Competitions 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 – Individual and Relay Teams

If a competitor starts too early start in an Individual competition or in the hand-over zone, the starter's assistant must stop the competitor as quickly as possible after the start line or the hand-over zone and send him back. The competitor must then 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 Relay). 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 IR and officials in charge will stop the competitors at the end of the set parallel tracks and the competitors must 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. Competitors or Relay teams who have made a false start and do not return to start again correctly will be considered as not having started.

6.4.7 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.

6.4.7.1 If competitors start late due to their own fault, their start time will be recorded as the one on the start list. If their 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 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 degrees Celsius measured at the coldest part of the site (range or course), 1.5 m above ground.

6.6.2 Wind Chill

If it is colder than minus 15°C, wind chill and humidity must be

considered before starting and during the competition. In the case of a high wind chill factor, the competition jury will decide whether to start or continue the competition, in consultation with the IBU Medical Delegate or the Competition Physician. 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 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 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.

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 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 other voice signal, even if the course is wide enough. However, this obligation does not apply to the last 50 m before the finish line and the last 50 m before the hand-over zone.

7.1.5 Skiing Penalty Loops

In all competitions in which the shot-penalty is the 150 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 immediately after the shooting bout. They are not permitted to complete penalty loops at a later time.

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 one of their skis, but only if it is broken or the binding is damaged. 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.

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.

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 on the course and 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

Competitors are not permitted to receive any assistance from any other person, other than as expressly stated in these rules.

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 1.3.10. When a rifle is taken out of the stadium area, it must be in a case or a cover bag.

8.2 SHOOTING RULES FOR SPECIFIC COMPETITIONS

8.2.1 Selecting Shooting Lanes

In Individual and Sprint 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 the Mass Start, 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 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 the Relay competition, 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 comply with the following regulations: they 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 while shooting – 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

Competitors must ensure that no part of their body, clothing, materials or equipment protrudes over the 1.5 m red lines marking the shooting lane or the extension of those boundaries while shooting. Competitors must also ensure that their rifle muzzle extends over the firing line.

8.3.4 Enforcement

If competitors are warned by a range official that their shooting position or their position in the shooting lane is not in compliance with the rules, those competitors must immediately correct their position.

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.

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.

8.5 SAFETY REGULATIONS

8.5.1 General

Shooting is only permitted on the shooting range, during officially authorized times. Making rifle movements that might endanger others or the competitors themselves, or that may be perceived by others as dangerous, is forbidden. 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. When the range is open for shooting, no one is permitted to be forward of that line. 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.

8.5.2 Loading and Unloading

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.

8.5.2.1 Safety Check on the Range 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, competitors must perform a safety check before leaving the shooting range by opening the bolt and removing the inserted magazine, with the barrel pointed toward the target or upward. Competitors must also remove all ammunition from both the stock and the magazines before leaving the shooting range.

8.5.3 Aimed Shots

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

8.5.4 Removal of Rifle on the Range

Competitors may not remove a strap of their rifle carrying harness from their shoulder before they have reached the shooting lane from which they will be shooting. They must cross the lane marking line with both feet and lay both ski poles on the ground prior to removing their rifle from the carrying position.

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 and Damaged Rifles

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. Competitors are permitted to receive ammunition and magazines on the course as well.

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 reserve rifle that has been inspected and marked

at the equipment check and deposited by the team in the designated reserve rifle rack on the range before the competition. The competitor must then complete the competition with a reserve rifle.

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 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. During 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.

8.6.4 Response by Range Officials

All range officials must be alert so that they notice a raised hand or a yell by a competitor asking for spare rounds or rifle exchange. Range officials must react with a sense of urgency and move quickly to minimize the time required to bring the rounds or to exchange the rifle.

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 one shooting incorrectly must be stopped immediately. 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, Pursuit, Mass Start or Relay competition, 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, they will be allowed to continue without the mistake being pointed out to them. 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 (first shooting bout in Mass Start and Relay), 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

In those cases where competitors lose time due to a target error that is not their fault, or to a target malfunction, the competition jury will make an appropriate time adjustment.

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 minutes imposed.

9.2.2 Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start Competitions

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

9.2.2.2 In the Pursuit competition and the Mass Start competition, 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 and Mass Start competitions at OWG, WCH, WC, OECH (M/W) and IBU Cups, if the leading competitor laps a competitor on the course before reaching the range for the leader's next bout of shooting, the overtaken competitor must withdraw from the competition at a suitable area in connection with the shooting range.

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.

At OWG, WCH, WC, OECH (M/W) and IBU Cups: teams that have not passed the penalty loop before the first team has finished, will receive their ranking based on their place after the penalty loop (split timing point) and will be stopped at that point. Those teams will be ranked on the results list and receive all associated points.

9.2.4.1 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, Y/J WCH, 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 and Relay competitions at OWG, WCH, Y/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, Y/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, Y/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.

9.2.8 Interrupted Competitions

9.2.8.1 At Pursuit and Mass Start competitions where the jury determines it is not possible to complete the fourth bout of shooting, the finish time will be taken at the timing point after the penalty loop following the third shooting bout. At competitions where less than three bouts of shooting are completed, the competition will be stopped and no official results will be produced.

9.2.8.2 At relay competitions that are stopped after the third leg of the relay is completed, the time recorded at that hand-over will be the final result.

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. Provisional 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;
 - 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;
 - World 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, provisional 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 score board, announced by the public announcer and will be available through the electronic information system.

9.4.2.2 Provisional Results

Provisional results are the first official record of the competition produced by the OC after the last finish. Provisional 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. The TD must sign and write the time of posting on the provisional results list so that the end of the protest period is clear.

9.4.2.3 Final Results

The final results are the incontestable final record of the competition and 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.

9.4.3 Results Booklet

The final results and other important information about all the competitions for all IBU events must be made into a booklet or posted online.

Three complete booklets of all competition documents must be sent to the IBU headquarters. The booklets must contain:

- a. the event program;
- b. participant list - NFs, competitors, trainers;
- c. decisions of the competition jury and jury of appeal;
- d. all final results, with applicable points lists and title page.

All results pages in the booklets must be on white paper only.

9.4.4 Distribution of Booklets and Results

Any NF may request a printed copy of the results booklet from the OC. In addition, the results of the whole season will be made available to all NFs on the IBU website.

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 provisional results must be submitted in the time period from the start of zeroing before the competition until 15 minutes after the posting of the provisional results. The OC must make a clear announcement regarding where the provisional 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. PENALTIES

For penalties, refer to the IBU Disciplinary Rules.

12. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – EVENT RULES

12.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS

12.1.1 Jurisdiction and Terms

The WCH and Y/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. In this section the rules stipulated for WCH will also apply to the Y/JWCH unless a specific difference is indicated.

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. Y/JWCH for junior men and junior women and for youth men and youth women together will be held annually during dates approved by the IBU EB. If any IBU competition that is normally held at the WCH is not in the program of the OWG, a WCH competition will be held for it in years of the OWG.

12.1.3 Best Biathletes – Financial Responsibility and Selection

Each OC of the WCH must pay the accommodation and meal expenses for the best 30 male and the best 30 female biathletes for a maximum of twelve days during the WCH. 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 OCS

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

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

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

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

12.5 INFORMATION BULLETINS AND INVITATIONS

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 Official 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

Each NF may register and enter athletes according to the quota shown below based on their Nations Cup rank from the previous season.

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).

*** NOTE: Art. 12.6.1.1 and Art. 12.6.1.1.1 come into effect for the WCH 2016 and onward.**

- b) Additionally, the NFs of the Individual, Sprint and Mass Start champions of the previous year's OWG or WCH may enter

those competitors at the WCH Individual, Sprint and Mass Start competitions respectively, in addition to their NF's quota.

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. 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 one NF. However, if an NF has more than four medalists, then all medalists from that NF will be entitled to start. In addition to the NF's quota, the champions of the previous year's OWG or 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 previous year's Nations Cup score. If any of the top-30 ranked teams are not entered, the next ranked teams may enter.

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 Nations Cup score. If any of the top-30 ranked teams are not entered, the next ranked teams may enter.

12.6.2 Quota – Y/JWCH

12.6.2.1 Maximum Registration and Entries

Each NF may register a maximum of five junior men and junior women each, and five youth men and youth women each in the Y/JWCH. The following entry regulations apply to specific competitions at the Y/JWCH:

12.6.2.2 Individual and Sprint Competitions

A maximum of four competitors per NF may be entered for each of the following classes: junior men, junior women, youth men and youth women. Additionally, the NFs of the Individual and Sprint champions in the previous year's Y/JWCH will be granted the right to enter them at the Y/JWCH Individual and Sprint competitions in addition to their NF's quota, as long as the competitors are still in the same class as they were at the previous Y/JWCH.

12.6.2.3 Pursuit Competitions

In each of the classes junior men, junior women, youth men and youth women, the top 60 competitors in the qualifying competitions will be entered.

12.6.2.4 Relay Competitions

Each NF will have the right to enter one relay team per class for the Y/JWCH Relay competitions.

A competitor may start in one Relay only (youth or junior).

12.6.2.5 Team Staff

Article 1.5.1.1 f will apply accordingly.

12.7 AWARDS

12.7.1 Official Medals

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 Awards Ceremony

The presentation of the official World Championships medals must include flag raising and national anthems. Competitors may not appear with competition materials/equipment.

12.7.1.2 Flower Ceremony

The flower ceremony is the TV presentation of the top 3 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.

12.8 LEADER START NUMBERS

The competitors, both men and women, who are the best ranked in the Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start competitions in the current World Cup score will wear a numbered "World Cup Leader" start number during the World Championships instead of a conventional start number. World Cup Leader Bib colors:

- Total score leaders – yellow
- Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start leaders – red
- Total score leaders who are concurrently best ranked in the respective competition type – yellow/red combined.

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.

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 the NF's ranking in the Nations Cup from the season before the OWG. Further details are determined by agreement between the IOC and IBU EB.

Nation Cup Rank	Register	Start	Total Registered	Total Start
1 – 5	6	4	30	20
6 – 20	5	4	75	60
21 – 22	2	2	4	4
NOCs Wild Cards (total 6) *			6	6
			115	90

* Maximum 2 athletes per NOC

13.4.1 Host Nation Exception to the OWG Quota

Subject to athletes meeting the IBU personal qualification criteria for the Olympic Winter Games, the host country of the OWG will be permitted to start with a minimum of one competitor and/or one team, of each gender, in each competition (with the exception of the Pursuit and Mass Start in which all athletes must qualify individually). The host country athletes entered under this provision must be included as part of the overall IBU/IOC athlete quota allocation. Any relay team that is entered under this provision will be entered in addition to the qualified relay teams and athletes.

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 trainings (both official and general trainings) and competitions, and closing one and a half hours after the conclusion of the last scheduled training or competition of that day.

14. CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CONTINENTAL CUPS – EVENT RULES

14.1 CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

14.1.1 General

The CCH are IBU events that are organized under its jurisdiction jointly for men, women, junior men and junior women.

OECH hosts will be appointed by the EB based on the applications from the respective member federations and recommendations of the TC. Specific rules for the OECH are covered under Article 17 of these rules.

14.1.2 Competition Types

The following competition types are authorized at CCH: Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start, Mixed Relay and Relay. All official IBU competitor classes are authorized to participate as stipulated by the respective NFs of the continent.

14.1.3 Eligibility and Participation

Competitors from all IBU member NFs will be eligible to participate in CC and CCH events.

However, only members of the teams of the host continent NFs will be eligible to be Continental Champions and medalists. Participation quotas will be set by the respective NFs from that continent.

14.1.4 Competition Rules

The IBU Event and Competition Rules apply to the CCH. Special rules may be developed and set by the respective NFs from that continent.

14.1.5 Awards

Official IBU medals will be awarded to the competitors as follows: first place – gold; second – silver; third – bronze. Additional prizes may be awarded by the respective NFs from that continent.

14.2 CONTINENTAL CUPS (CC) AND REGIONAL CUPS (RC)

14.2.1 General

Continental Cups/Regional Cups are IBU events. The competition series are open to all IBU members. CC/RC may not be organized at the same venue and time as WC competitions. Exceptions may be authorized by the IBU.

14.2.2 Event Hosting Applications and Appointment of NFs

Each IBU member NF may apply to organize one or more CC/RC event(s) for their respective continent/region per season in their country. Applications must be submitted to the IBU by 15 September for events in the coming winter and by 15 April for events in the coming summer.

14.2.3 Competition Rules

The IBU Event and Competition Rules apply to the CC/RC in principle as far as they are applicable. Special rules may be developed by the respective NFs in that continent/region provided such rules obtain IBU approval together with the hosting application.

15. WORLD CUP – EVENT RULES

15.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS

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 TD and IR Expenses

The travel, accommodation and meal costs, and daily allowance of the IBU TD and IRs will be borne by the OC for the period they are required for the event, in accordance with the current IBU policy.

15.1.3 Best biathletes – Financial Responsibility and Selection

Each OC of a WC event must pay for the accommodation and meal expenses for the best 25 male and the best 25 female biathletes for a maximum of seven full days for a three-competition WC event and five full days for a two-competition WC event. 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.

The NFs of the male and female winners of the IBU Cup total score will also receive additional funding from the IBU for their winner's participation at the World Cup Final.

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 email or by posting it on a website with notification by e-mail.

15.6 PARTICIPATION

15.6.1 Registration and Entry Quotas

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

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
Promotion from IBU Cup	2	1	2	1
NF Wild Cards (total 4)*	1	1	4	4
			161	110

* Maximum 1 athlete per NF

Wild-Card Definition and Purpose:

In addition to the quota for NFs stated above, four 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 one per NF per gender and are valid for a single trimester. However, they may be renewed for the following trimester.

Eligible NFs:

The top four 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 the NFs earning a wild card quota will be allowed to register and start one athlete for the following trimester, or until the next update as scheduled and announced by the IBU EB.

Wild-Card Renewal:

At the end of each season, following the promotion/relegation of the NF WC quota (according to 15.6.2), eligible NFs will be given wild-cards for the first trimester of the following season if available.

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.

15.6.2 Relegation and Promotion

At the end of the season, the following system of NF promotion and relegation between the WC and IBU Cup will be used:

Nations ranked 1-25 in the WC Nations Cup ranking automatically remain in the WC for the following season. The top NF in the IBU Cup Nations Cup score, not ranked in the top 25 of the WC Nations Cup score, will be granted a World Cup quota to register two and start one athlete for the coming season.

*** Points will be awarded from 2014/ 2015; NC points system from 2014/ 2015; Rule enters into effect from 2015/ 2016.**

15.6.3 Additional Start Rights at WC Final on the Basis of IBU Cup Total Score

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.

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

The Mass Start competition entries will consist of the top 25 competitors in the current WC total score and the remaining five competitors will be filled in, in rank order from the points they have acquired at the current WC event. If the last qualified competitors are tied, the one with the best WC total score will qualify. 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 five start numbers will be assigned in rank order from the WC Points scored at the current event.

15.7 WORLD CUP LEADER START NUMBERS, FLOWER CEREMONY AND OTHER PRIZES

15.7.1 General

Men and women competitors who are ranked the best in the Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start competitions in the current World Cup score and in the WC total score must wear a World Cup Leader start number during the competition.

15.7.2 World Cup Leader Start Numbers

The WC leader start numbers will have the competitors' number as shown on the start list, and be colored as follows:

- WC total score leaders – yellow;
- Each Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start leader – red;
- WC total score leaders who are at the same time best ranked in the respective competition type – yellow/red combined.

Numbers will be printed on the start numbers. Any advertising on the WC leader 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 3 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;
- c. World Cup Sprint score;
- d. World Cup Pursuit score;
- e. World Cup Mass Start score;
- f. World Cup Relay score;
- g. World Cup Mixed Relay score;
- h. Nations Cup score.

15.8.2 Awarding Points

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

15.8.2.1 World Cup Discipline Points

At each WC and WCH Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Relay and Mixed Relay competition, points will be awarded for each discipline as follows:

1st place	60 points	2nd place	54 points
3rd place	48 points	4th place	43 points
5th place	40 points	6th place	38 points
7th place	36 points	8th place	34 points
9th place	32 points	10th place	31 points
further decreasing by one down to 40th place (1 point).			

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

1st place	60 points	2nd place	54 points
3rd place	48 points	4th place	43 points

5th place	40 points	6th place	38 points
7th place	36 points	8th place	34 points
9th place	32 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).			

15.8.2.2 Nations Cup Points

Nation Cup points are awarded separately for men and women. At each WC and WCH individual and sprint competition, 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, half the Nations Cup points will be awarded to each gender. For the Single Mixed Relay, 1/4 of the Relay Nations Cup points will be awarded to each gender as follows:

1st place	105 points	2nd place	97.5 points	3rd place	90 points
4th place	82.5 points	5th place	77.5 points	6th place	72.5 points
7th place	67.5 points	8th place	62.5 points	9th place	57.5 points
10th place	55 points	11th place	52.5 points	12th place	50 points
13th place	47.5 points	14th place	45 points	15th place	42.5 points
16th place	40 points	17th place	37.5 points	18th place	35 points
19th place	32.5 points	20th place	30 points	21st place	27.5 points
22nd place	25 points	23rd place	22.5 points	24th place	20 points
25th place	17.5 points	26th place	15 points	27th place	12.5 points
28th place	10 points	29th place	7.5 points	30th place	5 points

15.8.3 Criteria

15.8.3.1 WC Total, Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start, Relay and Mixed Relay Scores

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

15.8.3.2 Nations Cup Score

Scoring of the Nations Cup will be based on all of the WC and WCH Individual, Sprint, 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, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start competitions. The scores from all competitions will be added together minus the two lowest scores and the sum will be the WC total score.

15.8.4.2 World Cup Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, Mass Start, Relay and Mixed Relay Score

The WC score of each of the types of the competitions will be calculated the same way by adding together the scores of all the competitions of

each type. A minimum of two events must be scored in a single season for a cup to be awarded.

15.8.4.3 Nations Cup Score

The NFs' best three competitors earn Nations Cup points in Individual and Sprint 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 and Sprint; 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.

15.8.6 World Cup Score

15.8.6.1 Current Standings

After each WC and WCH 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:

- the man and woman placed first in the World Cup total score;
- the man and woman placed first in the World Cup Individual score;
- the man and woman placed first in the World Cup Sprint score;
- the woman and man placed first in the World Cup Pursuit score;

- e. the woman and man placed first in the World Cup Mass Start score;
- f. the NFs placed first in the men's and women's World Cup Relay score;
- g. the NFs placed first in the World Cup Mixed Relay score;
- h. the NFs placed first in the women's and men's World Cup Nations score.

15.9.3 Right to Retain Trophies

World Cup trophies may be retained as follows:

- a. The World Cup trophies awarded for the World Cup total, Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start scores will become the property of the winners.
- b. The World Cup trophies awarded for the World Cup Relay and Mixed Relay score will become the property of that NF.
- c. The Cup for the World Cup nations score is a perpetual challenge cup that will be retained by the IBU. Miniature cups, for retention by the winning NFs, will be awarded every year.

15.9.4 Provision of Trophies

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

15.9.5 World Cup and Nations Cup Certificates

The IBU will present a certificate to the top -10 competitors and NFs according to the World Cup total score and Nations Cup. In each type of competition the IBU will present a certificate to the top placed competitor at the end of a competition season. The presentations will take place during the WC Final at a suitable occasion.

15.9.6 Other Prizes

OCs and other bodies may present other prizes.

15.9.7 Prize Money

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

16. IBU CUP – EVENT RULES

16.1 GENERAL

IBU Cups are IBU events that, as a general rule, are held for men and women. Juniors may compete as stipulated in Art. 1.2.2. Youth athletes are entitled to start in the IBU Cup, if:

- they have achieved the WC or IBU Cup qualification in the previous or current season or
- they have achieved at least one result among the top half of the finishers at the Youth or Junior WCH, Junior IBU Cup, WC, WCH, OECH, YOG or EYOF in the previous or current season.

Once qualified for the IBU Cup a youth athlete remains eligible to start in 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. This information will be included in the IBU Biathlon Guide. 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 and sprint 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	7	6	30
6 to 10	6	5	25
11 to 20	5	4	40
21 and above	4	3	(60)
			Total 155

16.2.1 General:

In each IBU Cup trimester, each competitor must score 200 IBU qualifying points or less at least once, and demonstrate safe

competence in skiing and on the shooting range. Competitors who fail to reach this quality performance standard may not start in the IBU Cup until the second following trimester unless they have currently qualified for the WC. Youth class competitors may start in the IBU Cup, however only as stipulated in Art. 16.1 above.

16.2.2 IBU Cup for non-European countries:

All non-European NFs will have an IBU Cup start quota of four and may register 5, unless they are entitled to more according to Art. 16.1 above.

16.3 COMPETITORS AND ENTRIES

The Host NF may register 7 and start 6 per gender. 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, Sprint, and Pursuit competitions, points will be awarded for each discipline as follows:

1st place	60 points	2nd place	54 points
3rd place	48 points	4th place	43 points
5th place	40 points	6th place	38 points
7th place	36 points	8th place	34 points
9th place	32 points	10th place	31 points
further decreasing by one down to 40th place (1 point).			

At Mass Start competitions, points will be awarded as follows:

1st place	60 points	2nd place	54 points
3rd place	48 points	4th place	43 points
5th place	40 points	6th place	38 points
7th place	36 points	8th place	34 points
9th place	32 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).			

16.4.2 IBU Cup Nations Cup Points

Nations Cup points are awarded separately for men and women. At the OECH and IBU Cup Individual and Sprint 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 IBU Cup 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, half the Nations Cup points will be awarded to each gender. For the Single Mixed Relay, one quarter of the Nations Cup points will be awarded to each gender – see chart.

1st place	105 points	2nd place	97.5 points	3rd place	90 points
4th place	82.5 points	5th place	77.5 points	6th place	72.5 points
7th place	67.5 points	8th place	62.5 points	9th place	57.5 points

10th place	55 points	11th place	52.5 points	12th place	50 points
13th place	47.5 points	14th place	45 points	15th place	42.5 points
16th place	40 points	17th place	37.5 points	18th place	35 points
19th place	32.5 points	20th place	30 points	21st place	27.5 points
22nd place	25 points	23rd place	22.5 points	24th place	20 points
25th place	17.5 points	26th place	15 points	27th place	12.5 points
28th place	10 points	29th place	7.5 points	30th place	5 points

16.5 TYPES OF SCORING

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

- IBU Cup total score (Individual, Sprint, Pursuit & OECH Mass Start);
- IBU Cup Individual score;
- IBU Cup Sprint score;
- IBU Cup Pursuit score;
- IBU Cup Nations Cup score (Individual, Sprint, Relay, Mixed Relay).

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, Sprint, Pursuit, and OECH Mass Start competitions. The scores from all OECH and IBU Cup competitions will be added together minus the two lowest scores, giving the IBU Cup total score.

16.5.1.2 IBU Cup Individual, Sprint, and Pursuit Score

The IBU Cup score of each of the types of the competitions will be calculated the same way by adding together the scores of all the competitions of each type.

16.5.1.3 IBU Nations Cup Score

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

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 has won more first places, and if there is still a tie, who has won the most second places, etc. If, after following this procedure, the tie cannot be broken, a tie will be declared.

16.6 AWARDS

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

16.6.2 The IBU Cup Trophies will be paid for 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 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 Relay, 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. The assigned Relay/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.

17. OPEN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (OECH)

17.1 JURISDICTION AND TERMS

The OECH is an IBU event and is held under its jurisdiction for men and women.

17.2 PARTICIPANTS, REGISTRATION AND ENTRY

Competitors must be members of an IBU NF. All NFs of the IBU may register up to seven competitors in each class to participate in the OECH. Six competitors from each NF may be entered to start in the individual and sprint competitions per class. 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 competition. Additionally, the NFs of the individual and sprint champions from the previous year's OECH will be granted the right to enter them at the respective OECH individual and sprint competitions, in addition to their NF's quota. The Mass Start entry list will be made in rank order from the sum of the IBU Cup points earned at the OECH.

17.3 COMPETITION PROGRAM

The competition program may consist of the Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Mass Start for men and women and Relay or Mixed Relay.

17.4 EVENT AND COMPETITION RULES

17.4.1 Scope

The IBU Event and Competition Rules will apply to the OECH with the following deviations:

17.4.2 Classes of Competitions

OECH events consist of competitions for men and women.

17.4.3 Scoring

IBU Cup Points and IBU Nations Cup Points will be awarded at the OECH in the same manner they are for IBU Cup events.

17.4.4 Awards

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

17.5 ENTRY INTO FORCE

Generally, these rules will go into effect for the OECH 2016; however the U26 age restriction will be removed for OECH 2015.

Note: OECH events are subject to an event hosting declaration.

18. JUNIOR IBU CUP

18.1 GENERAL

The Junior IBU Cup is an IBU competition series for junior-class competitors. Youth-class athletes may compete if they start as junior-class competitors and meet the requirements for competing as juniors.

18.2 EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

All IBU member federations may apply to host Junior IBU Cup events. Venues with an IBU License are preferred, but a license is not required. The IBU EB will schedule up to four IBU Junior Cup events per season based on recommendations from the IBU TC. Each event should contain two competitions from among Individual, Sprint, Pursuit and Relay.

Regional Cups may be held at the same time and at the same host venue as Junior IBU Cup events. However, if this is the case, junior-class athletes will take priority to participants competing in the Regional Cup.

18.3 COMPETITORS AND ENTRY

Each IBU member federation may register and enter five (5) female and five (5) male athletes. The host nation may enter an additional 5 male and 5 female athletes.

18.4 SCORING

Junior IBU Cup points are awarded at each Junior IBU Cup and the JWCH in the same manner as IBU Cup points are awarded at the IBU Cup.

18.4.1 Score types

The following types of scoring are used:

- a) Total score (Individual, Sprint, Pursuit);
- b) Individual score;
- c) Sprint score;
- d) Pursuit score.

18.4.1.1 Total score

The two lowest scores will be subtracted from the sum total of all points gained in competitions listed under Art. 18.4.1 above.

18.4.1.2 Individual, Sprint and Pursuit score

The scores for the Individual, Sprint and Pursuit disciplines are calculated by adding up the points gained in all competitions in the respective discipline.

18.5 PRIZES

Each athlete first placed in the competitions listed under Article 18.4.1 a) - d) above will receive a Junior IBU Cup trophy.

18.6 COMPETITION RULES**18.6.1 General**

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

18.6.2 Pursuit

Lapped competitors may continue until the finish.

18.6.3 Zeroing and training

Shooting lanes for zeroing and training will be allocated according to the NC results in the Senior IBU Cup.

*** Junior Cup will come into effect from the season 2015/2016**

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 and 2014 Congresses.