



## BBU Competition Plan – Winter 2018-19

### AIM

British Biathlon remains in transition as strategic and operational change is implemented in the aftermath of last year's high turnover on the Board, revision to military policy concerning winter sports and biathletes' exit from the international arena. Direct financial support for biathlon from public and non-public funds from the armed forces and sponsors has diminished over the years, exacerbated by the tightening of military policy on the release and support to military personnel participating in winter sports. The net consequences have placed persistent pressure on the funding of the BBU and biathletes, reduced opportunities for military and elite athletes to train and prepare for international competitions and made the identification and development of elite talent challenging.

The BBU's vision remains extant: to place a British Athlete onto an international podium within 15 years. Although, for the time being, the Army will remain the principal source of elite talent and potential for entry into IBU competitions, the National Governing Body's revised strategy will focus on widening the pool to civilian clubs and talent, both in the UK and abroad.

The Aim of this Plan is:

Through the provision of a progressive and structured development pathway, start to set the conditions for talented national elite biathletes to aspire to and reach the top of international level biathlon.

### OUTLINE PLAN

The following charts a plan for the 2018-19 season and is laid out chronologically:

**Training.** This covers the period from now until the end of November. There will be two principle events during this period:

- **Glenmore Lodge.** The RLC are sponsoring a training camp at Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore from 12 to 21 October. The camp will focus on basic ski fitness and roller ski technique. The camp is designed for people who have previous experience of the sport and therefore is not open to all. If you wish to take part please contact Sec Gen BBU, Roddy Christie on [info@britishbiathlon.com](mailto:info@britishbiathlon.com).
- **Training, Beitostølen, NOR.** Working closely with the RLC, the BBU is aiming to gather a group of potential international biathletes in Beitostølen in November. This will provide a training period prior to the BBU selection and will be supported by Marcel Laponder. As above, those wishing to participate should, in the first instance, contact



Roddy Christie. Please note, that the BBU will not provide financial support for this training period except that coaching costs will be covered.

**Selection.** BBU Selection will take place in Geilo, NOR from 1 to 2 December. This will be linked to an existing Norwegian event which will allow the BBU to benchmark GB athletes against others. The races are open to any UK athlete who has pre-registered with the BBU. You must confirm that you wish to take part no later than 1 November 2018.

**Selection Benchmarks.** The reason for doing the selection in Geilo is that we have the opportunity to benchmark our athletes against Norwegian athletes. This will allow the selection committee to gauge the level of competition that we should be entering prospective GB biathletes for.

**Grading Athletes.** Athletes will be challenged but we also want to place them into a suitable environment that on the one hand stimulates their interest in this level of competition but on the other does not undermine their confidence or self-esteem. Following selection, we will grade the athletes into three groups:

- Group 1 – athletes we feel are of an appropriate standard to gain a positive experience from competing at their relevant level at an IBU competition.
- Group 2 – athletes we feel would not benefit from competing on the IBU Cup but show good potential and should be involved in lower levels of competition first (explanation of this point in more detail below).
- Group 3 – athletes we feel are not ready for International competition, but we will maintain a careful eye on their progress and potential.

**Races.** Following selection of a team, we will look to enter them into international competitions. The table below identifies the races that BBU is considering entering athletes into for the 2018-19 season. World Cup and World Championship races are not included in this as we have only 1 qualified biathlete (Amanda Lightfoot), who will be managed separately to this plan.

Dates	Event	Location
<b>IBU Cup</b>		
10 Dec – 16 Dec	IBU Cup 2	Ridnaun, ITA
17 Dec – 22 Dec	IBU Cup 3	Obertilliach, AUT
7 Jan – 13 Jan	IBU Cup 4	Duszniki-Zdroj, POL
14 Jan – 20 Jan	IBU Cup 5	Arber, GER
21 Jan – 27 Jan	IBU Cup 6	Lenzerheide, SUI
25 Feb – 2 Mar	IBU Cup 7	Otepaa, EST
11 Mar – 17 Mar	IBU Cup 8	Martell, ITA
<b>IBU Junior Cup</b>		
10 Dec – 16 Dec	IBU Junior Cup 1	Lenzerheide, SUI
17 Dec – 22 Dec	IBU Junior Cup 2	Premanon, FRA
25 Feb – 03 Mar	IBU Junior Cup 3	Torsby, SWE
<b>Other</b>		
28 Jan – 03 Feb	Youth/Junior World Championships	Osrblie, SVK
9 Feb – 16 Feb	European Youth Olympic Winter Festival	Sarajevo, BOS
18 Feb – 24 Feb	Open European Championships	Minsk, BLR

2 Mar – 12 Mar	Universiade	Krasnoyarsk, RUS
4 Mar – 8 Mar	Future Starts Event	Östersund, SWE
4 Mar – 10 Mar	Junior Open European Championships	Sjusjoen, NOR
23 Jan – 8 Feb	British Championships/Rucksack	Ruhpolding, GER

## PROPOSED PLAN

### Trimester 1:

- **Group 1.** Athletes from above will compete on their respective IBU Cup series (we aim to keep youths and juniors racing against peers). If after the first competition, it is obvious that our selection of athletes was off the mark the selection committee will opt to move people between groups if necessary.
- **Group 2.** Athletes return to their clubs under a structured training plan

**Trimester 2.** We will review Trimester 2 (T2) participation based on the following principles:

- Athletes that qualify for their various levels of international competition will be supported and continue to take part during T2.
- Athletes who do not qualify for the international competitions in T2 will either return to their club competitions if available and/or we will look at options for them to take part in national level competitions as applicable.
- Where there is an overlap between international competitions and the British Championships (Ex Rucksack) we will discuss with each individual athlete which competition that they wish to, and we think they should take part in.

**Trimester 3.** We will review the status of the athletes after the British Championships to make a judgement and subsequent decision on whether to enter athletes into Trimester 3 races. We will aim to identify a group of athletes who we want to train during the summer, based on results in international competitions and at the British Championships and try to implement a pathway for training through the summer and into next season.

## LOGISTICS

The logistics for this year will be challenging as we have no clear idea of who will take part in which events and therefore little ability to forward plan. Additionally, a number of events that are likely to have one or more biathletes in attendance overlap subjecting challenges to administration and management. We will manage this in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, but athletes will need to be flexible and self-supporting for this to work.

## EQUIPMENT AND WAX

Athletes will be responsible for sourcing their own equipment for the season. Coaches will help with waxing, but athletes should expect to prepare their own equipment for racing.



## FINANCE

The BBU will aim to support athletes financially where possible through the season. All grants given by the IBU for attendance at events will be aimed at supporting athletes in the appropriate manner. Athletes who are selected must be prepared to contribute financially to their participation in the sport. We will aim to keep the costs to a minimum but participation in sport at this level does not come free.

