



BIATHLON ONTARIO

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Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 5K8

BIATHLON ONTARIO OPERATIONAL PLAN 2013-2015

Biathlon Ontario's Vision

Biathlon Ontario will govern, organize and develop the sport of Biathlon across Ontario as a means of promoting an active and healthy life style for both recreational and competitive activity

Biathlon Ontario's Mission

The purpose of Biathlon Ontario is to promote, develop and maintain all aspects of winter and summer biathlon in Ontario.

The organization of biathlon activities and the delivery of biathlon programs are principally carried out by the member clubs, which are generally community-based. BiON and the member club work together, to coordinate and enhance the delivery of common programs.

Operational Priorities and Implementation Plan

Biathlon Ontario will continue with its four-pronged focus in operational priorities: Administration, Technical, Participation, and Excellence.

1. Administration: to strengthen Biathlon Ontario corporately and to enhance and develop partnerships with stakeholders and government agencies.
 - a. Biathlon Ontario will continue to enhance its service through utilization of enhance committee structures. These committees will have measureable accountabilities to the executives. Examples of committees will be club to club mentorship, strategic planning, Marketing and promotion, Growth and visioning, and range development
 - b. Biathlon Ontario will be proactive in obtaining sponsorship opportunities to assist with equipment purchases and education opportunities.
 - c. Biathlon Ontario will further develop its community visibility through specific marketing and promotion strategies. Biathlon will implement systems to heighten awareness of the sport. This will be a multimedia approach utilizing the most current information communication systems (ie. Web, social media, print, and clothing)
 - d. Solicit sponsorship partnerships to assist with funding equipment purchases, Coach and Officials training and to assist the High Performance Team with the high cost of travel to competitions.
 - e. Increase our membership through implementation of our member's recruitment plan. Specifically, demo days partnered with Nordic special events will create visibility and education.
 - f. Create and implement Equipment management strategy.
 - g. Transition to Non-for Profit Corporation Act by Oct 2014

2. Technical: to develop and maintain the “people infrastructure” to support the programs and activities of Biathlon Ontario and its Member Clubs. In this area, the focus will be on Coach and Officials Development. In order to ensure that our programs and events can operate, at both the local club and the PSO levels, we need to increase our efforts at training and certifying coaches and officials of all levels.
 - a. Train more coaches to meet BiON expectations as stated in our “Policy for Support of Coaching Development” in order to ensure the viability of biathlon programs at all stages of the LTAD. We continue to support and facilitate our Gold coach programs throughout Ontario.
 - b. Encourage the older athletes to take the coach training so that they may help in their local clubs and, as they progress, to ensure a continuing supply of qualified coaches at the higher levels.
 - c. Encourage parents of younger athletes to take the Gold level coach course so that they may assist in their local club programs.
 - d. Make the coaching courses affordable for all interested, by subsidies to help offset high travel costs to bring in a Learning Facilitator (LF), and by distributing information about bursaries and other grants that are available to assist with costs.
 - e. Establish more “mentoring” partnerships with higher level coaches.
 - f. Seek opportunities to attract learning facilitators to Ontario. As the sport grows in Ontario and athletes, coaches, and officials mature in their abilities, BiON will identify talent and proactively provide opportunities for growth and leadership opportunities
 - g. Actively recruit qualified coaches in Ontario who are no longer BiON members.
 - h. Recruit coaches and officials from the Cadet program, who can then assist in attracting Cadet athletes who are looking for more challenging biathlon training and competitions.
 - i. Train more officials in every club to ensure that all clubs are capable of running events independently.
 - j. Encourage members to take the online Entry level officials course.
 - k. Offer in-class Entry level officials course for clubs who request it, as a means of training more officials in each club.
 - l. Provide sufficient opportunities for these officials to get the necessary race officiating experience.
3. Participation: to enhance participation at all levels of the sport, through support of club development, and by communication and outreach activities.
 - a. Provide guidance and mentorship to new and existing clubs. As Biathlon has grown in popularity, many clubs have also grown in experience.
 - b. Implementation of a club to club support system will reduce concerns and redundancies in the early stages of club development.

- c. Promote the new “Recreational Athlete” membership to allow athlete involvement exclusively at the club level, for those who are not interested in a competitive program.
 - d. Hold “Give it a Shot!” demonstrations and try-outs of air rifle biathlon at local Community and Cultural Festivals and events.
 - e. Continue discussions with clubs regarding the development of certified Biathlon Ranges in Ontario. These ranges are necessary to keep our athletes in the “Train to Train” and higher stages by ensuring training and competition opportunities at small-bore (.22) International Biathlon Union (IBU) standards. Furthermore assist club members with the avocation and education of air rifle programs
 - f. Explore opportunities to partner with Paralympic teams to offer inclusive races and opportunities for athletes with a disability.
4. Excellence: to provide an environment in Ontario for the development of high performing athletes to represent Ontario as well as Canada. A key requirement to accomplish this is certified biathlon .22 facilities in the province. Currently our athletes have to travel out of the province to train or compete at facilities that meet IBU standards.
- a. Ensure that the local member clubs provide LTAD-stage appropriate programs, in order to provide a pool of athletes from which to develop a high performance team.
 - b. Monitor the results of Ontario athletes at all races to help to identify potential high performance athletes.
 - c. Hold annual Ontario Biathlon Championship.
 - d. Maintain and review on an ongoing basis, the selection criteria for Ontario Winter Games, Canada Winter Games, the High Performance Training Squad, the Ontario Team, and carding Ontario athletes under the Quest for Gold Program (OAAP).
 - e. Promote the development of Level 3/Comp Dev and higher coaches to support a high performance program.
 - f. Organize high performance testing and dry-land and on-snow training camps.
 - g. Provide coaching support for the Ontario team at Nationals Championships, and when possible, at North American Cup races. Encourage and support club level coaching at these races

Motion carried by Board of Ontario on 26 May 2013.