

BIU ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2020 - APRIL 2021



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, LOUISE REILLY

The Biathlon Integrity Unit (BIU) was established following a troubled era for our sport.

Allegations of corruption, fraud and wrongdoing that were uncovered in 2018 resulted in the IBU Executive Board making significant recommendations for reform of our sport. A central part of this reform was the creation of a new, independent Integrity Unit whose mission was to independently and expertly address wrongdoing in our sport. We believe that from crisis comes opportunity, and it is this opportunity to restore confidence in the sport of biathlon that has driven us throughout our first fiscal year in operation.

In what has been a challenging year to launch a Sports Integrity Unit, we are proud of all that we have been able to achieve in a short space of time. A great amount of energy has been spent on resourcing the Unit so that we have the capacity and skills required to take on the task of protecting the integrity of biathlon and working with the IBU to ensure a clean and trusted sport.

Over the past 12 months, we have pursued a robust anti-doping programme that has included our team analysing the large volume of Moscow Laboratory Information Management System data that was provided to the IBU arising out of the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) McLaren Report. As part of our anti-doping efforts, we have also pursued Athlete Biological Passport and Whereabouts cases, both of which have a real impact on maintaining a clean sport.



"As we emerge from the global pandemic, we are optimistic about all we can achieve for biathlon together."

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, LOUISE REILLY

With the IBU publishing the final report of the independent External Review Commission (ERC), we are carrying out the necessary follow-up work, which includes whether to undertake any further investigations and whether to bring disciplinary charges for breach of the IBU rules that were in place at the time. As a small but dedicated Unit, we are forward looking but equally, realise the importance of properly investigating historical allegations of wrongdoing.

Arguably, one of most important goals of the BIU in its set-up phase has been raising awareness of the existence of the Unit and its role and responsibilities. That is why we have devoted much time and effort over the past 12 months to communications and education, so that greater numbers of people in our community know who we are, what we do, and how we can help ensure a sport that everyone can be proud of and trust.

A large part of our communications and education has focussed on non-doping matters. Protecting the integrity of biathlon is about so much more than tackling doping: it is about countering corruption, illegal betting or competition manipulation, and it is about safeguarding our athletes.

We believe that in order to succeed, we need to change the way sports integrity is traditionally viewed. Our strategy is to ensure the efficacy of our programme by taking a holistic, 360 degree view, to allow us to better deter, and ultimately prevent, biathletes and others from breaching the rules.

As we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, we are optimistic about the future of biathlon. We have come a long way in a short space of time: from some dark days has arisen an opportunity to turn a page and transform the culture of the sport in to one that stands for fairness, honesty and has integrity at its core. We want to build a better biathlon for the entire community, and we look forward to achieving that, together, with your support.

BIU IN 12 MONTHS

May 2020

Working as a consultant, future BIU Head Greg McKenna begins work by developing the Unit's structure, recruitment of new staff and strategy.

Following a short break in testing during April (due to the Covid-19 global pandemic), the Unit resumes anti-doping testing.

June 2020

The BIU begins engagement with other Sport Integrity Units to learn more about their operations and growth – helping serve as a future model for the BIU.

July 2020

The BIU launched its brand new, user-friendly website. BIU Chair, Louise Reilly confirmed that the website would “serve as a central hub of information for all integrity matters related to the sport of biathlon” and that the site aims to be “as informative and easy to navigate as possible in order to encourage people to use the website as an educational tool as well as a source for the latest integrity information”.

August 2020

Senior Investigations and UK Law Enforcement professional, Greg McKenna was announced as the first Head of the BIU. McKenna joined following 27 years spent in UK law enforcement, including 13 spent with the National Crime Agency.

September 2020

The IBU Regional Workshop Coach Seminar took place virtually (due to the global pandemic), with the BIU contributing a session on values-based Anti-Doping Education for coaches. The BIU's session covered the World Anti-Doping Code and Prohibited List, rights and responsibilities, injuries, illness and Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs).

October 2020

Former Russian biathlete, Evgeny Ustyugov was found guilty of committing an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). On the basis of his Athlete Biological Passport (ABP), the athlete's was found to have used a prohibited substance and/or method in the period 2010-2014. CAS also found that he had the benefit of protection and support to improve his performance and that in light of those aggravating factors, a four-year period of ineligibility was imposed. This was the first case brought by the BIU since it was officially formed 12 months earlier.

The BIU also launched on social media, with its first content visible on Instagram and Twitter.

BIU IN 12 MONTHS

November 2020

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the BIU implements a robust pre-season anti-doping testing programme – ensuring greater confidence for biathletes as they prepare to compete in the winter season.

The BIU attended the season's first IBU World Cup Biathlon events, and utilised its time on the road to engage with different stakeholders. The BIU's anti-doping program was implemented in line with the IBU's own Covid-19 regulations.

December 2020

The BIU partnered with the Tirol, Austria-based University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology's (UMIT) Institute for Sport Alpine Medicine and Health Tourism to build and implement a comprehensive clean sport education programme.

The two-year WADA Code-compliant programme focussed on values-based anti-doping education; particularly on monitoring, analysis and evaluation of education programmes that will be offered to athletes.

The educational measures that result from the evaluation will be implemented in collaboration with the IOC-backed International Testing Agency (ITA).

January 2021

The new 2021 World Anti-Doping Code (and International Standards) and Prohibited List launched, marking the new set of globally-implemented anti-doping rules and banned substances and methods, respectively. The changes to the Code and List, which affects athletes, coaches, doctors, physios, administrators and other stakeholders, were communicated widely by the BIU on its channels.

WADA's new and improved Anti-Doping Education and Learning platform (ADEL) also launched for biathletes. As an evolved version from the original ADEL that launched in January 2018, the new version supports the new WADA International Standard for Education, which took effect on 1 January 2021 and is seen as a significant step forward in anti-doping education policy. BIU Head, Greg McKenna said: "The availability of education and learning programs for the our community, whether they be biathletes, coaches, parents or other entourage members, is another positive step forward for instilling a positive culture for tomorrow's athletes."

BIU IN 12 MONTHS

February 2021

The IBU published the final report of the independent External Review Commission (ERC). The ERC concluded with recommendations that former IBU President Anders Besseberg and former IBU Secretary General Nicole Resch may have cases to answer for potential breaches of the IBU's Rules.

The BIU confirmed it was conducting its own ongoing inquiries into the matters highlighted by the report "to determine whether to undertake any further investigations and whether to bring disciplinary charges for breach of the IBU Rules that were in place at the relevant time".

The BIU also attended the IBU Biathlon World Championships in Pokljuka, Slovenia and used the occasion to underline its 2020 testing programme - much of which was under public health restrictions during the global pandemic - which conducted 1,836 anti-doping tests. The BIU also confirmed the more strategically targeted anti-doping approach it has taken - covering investigations, information sharing, whistleblowing, the Athlete Biological Passport, education and other means to protect clean athletes.

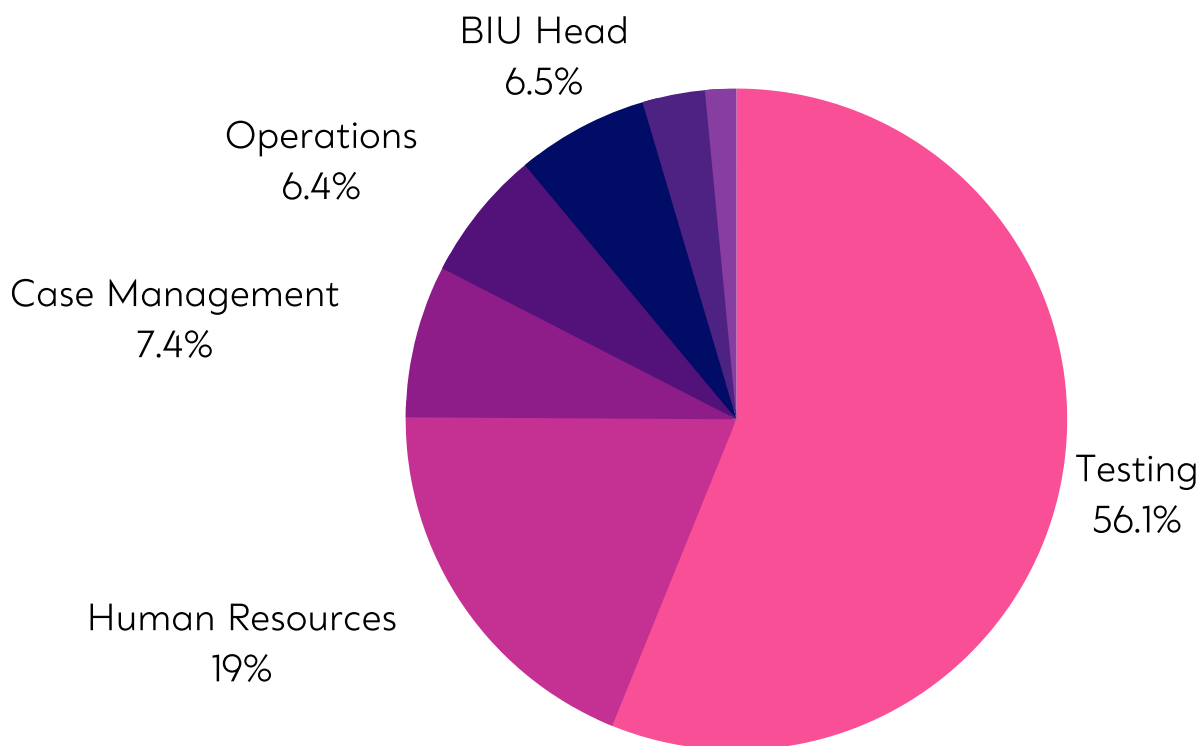
The BIU held meetings with the Athlete Committee and the Coaches' Committee during the IBU World Championships, reiterating the importance the Unit places on communicating with athletes and other stakeholders in the biathlon community to hear their thoughts and concerns.

March 2021

At the IBU Youth and Junior World Championships, the BIU held an Anti-Doping Education session. The basics of Anti-Doping & Testing were provided virtually during this Event to all participants.

As the first international biathlon season with the BIU in place drew to a close, with the BMW IBU World Cup Biathlon taking place in Oestersund, Sweden, the BIU announced the provisional suspension of Latvian biathlete Andrejs Rastorgujevs. The athlete's suspension from competition was due to a potential Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) in the form of a whereabouts failure.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021



TOTAL BUDGET €1,858,541 EUROS

"I WANT TO INSPIRE MORE
PEOPLE TO BE INTERESTED
IN INTEGRITY-RELATED
MATTERS, NOT ONLY
ATHLETES, BUT ALL
STAKEHOLDERS AND
FANS."

Sebastian Samuelsson,
Winter Olympic Games Gold Medalist



BIU APPROACH TO ANTI-DOPING

ANTI-DOPING TESTING & CASE MANAGEMENT

Becoming fully operationally effective in July 2020, at a time when the Covid-19 global pandemic was rapidly spreading across the world, the BIU has, as with other Integrity Units and Anti-Doping Organisations, faced challenges with an in-person testing programme given the public health restrictions that have resulted from the pandemic, which, in turn, has had an impact on the capabilities of the BIU's sample collection partners, from country to country.

However, the global pandemic aside, as a modern sports integrity unit, the BIU has adopted a progressive and holistic approach to its anti-doping programme to ensure that there is no reduction in the quality or effectiveness of the anti-doping programme. This means a programme which is less concentrated on a high quantity of tests, and more concentrated on a multi-dimensional strategy that embraces not just on in- or out-of-competition testing, but also investigations and information sharing, whistleblowing, the Athlete Biological Passport, education and other means to protect clean biathletes. The multi-tool strategy adopted by the BIU in this first year of operation has aimed to detect, deter and prevent doping, and work towards one overarching mission: restoring trust and confidence to the sport.

BIU MULTI-STRAND APPROACH TO ANTI-DOPING

EDUCATION

Alongside our current educational programme, more information on spotting the signs doping activity, together with how even the smallest piece of information can make a difference.

HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

We are building confidence in our whistleblowing function. Despite significant advances in technology, human intelligence remains by far the most effective intelligence and information-gathering method. This can involve use of our whistleblowing systems, or providing either one our ongoing confidential contact with the BIU.

PERFORMANCE DATA COLLECTION

We are developing tools which draw on all performance data.

INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH

We are ingesting and analysing all data sources to establish links and lines that need further enquiry.

SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS

We are regularly seeking input from scientific experts on emerging or novel use of existing substances.

PROACTIVE INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT

Our investigators collect information on the ground and will focus on whereabouts failures – Whereabouts is a key deterrent to doping.

TESTING

We will not be led by the notion that high testing numbers equals a strong anti-doping programme. Rather, we are using intelligence-led testing to test at the optimum.

ENTOURAGE

We are focussed on understanding the teams behind the athletes, and the influence they can have on biathletes, both good and bad. Behind many breaches to the rules lies support members wrongly encouraging their athletes to dope or breach rules.

COMMUNICATIONS

Underpinning all of this is a clear approach to communications so that no one in biathlon can be in any doubt as to our collective determination to succeed in our mission.

BIU APPROACH TO ANTI-DOPING

THE 70-23-7 APPROACH TO ANTI-DOPING

Underpinning the BIU's anti-doping programme is what it calls the 70-23-7 strategy. This strategy's foundations are based on a theory of how crimes are committed across society.

As BIU Head, Greg McKenna says: "I believe there are real parallels between patterns of doping and other breaches to sport integrity on one hand, and patterns of how crime is conducted across society, on the other."

"In law enforcement, there would be a general rule that 70% of individuals do not get involved in crime, or perhaps do so inadvertently, without intention – these individuals generally have strong values and education. Then 23% of individuals who would not go proactively seeking a life of crime but, if offered an opportunity where they see an advantage or incentive from doing so, and don't believe they will be caught, might cross that line. And then the 7% of individuals, who are determined to commit crime no matter the consequences or impact on others in society.

"We view this breakdown of wrongdoing similarly in that the overwhelming majority – the 70% – don't breach the rules, or certainly don't do so intentionally. For these, we need to ensure they are well informed, so a strong Education programme and targeted communications is vital. The 23%, if offered the opportunity and presented with what they see as benefits and potential success of cheating, may cross that ethical line – and it is for these individuals that we want to instill strong, preventative educational messages that demonstrate the real risks of breaching integrity rules and the strong possibility of being caught. Finally, the 7% that are willing to take significant risks and will develop ways to avoid detection – these are the individuals that we must detect and hold to account. We will identify and target these individuals, through intelligence gathering and investigation, so that we can ensure a fairer biathlon for all.

"It is this 70-23-7 strategy that we carry throughout our anti-doping testing, education, prevention, intelligence gathering & investigation work."

BIU APPROACH TO ANTI-DOPING

IBU AND FIS ANTI-DOPING ADVISORY GROUP

The IBU and FIS Anti-Doping Advisory Group consists of four respected members of the sports integrity and anti-doping community: Mario Thevis, Head of WADA accredited Laboratory Cologne (GER); Günter Gmeiner, Head of WADA accredited Laboratory Seibersdorf (AUT); Ben Rutherford, Legal Director of the Tennis Integrity Unit (IBU nominated); and Francesca Rossi, Director of the Testing Department at the French Anti-Doping Agency (FIS nominated).

The mandate of the Anti-Doping Advisory Group is to advise the BIU and International Ski Federation (FIS) on following issues:



Input to Testing strategies



Integration of intelligence to testing strategy



Scientific-based Preventative Activities



Doping trends / additional testing methods



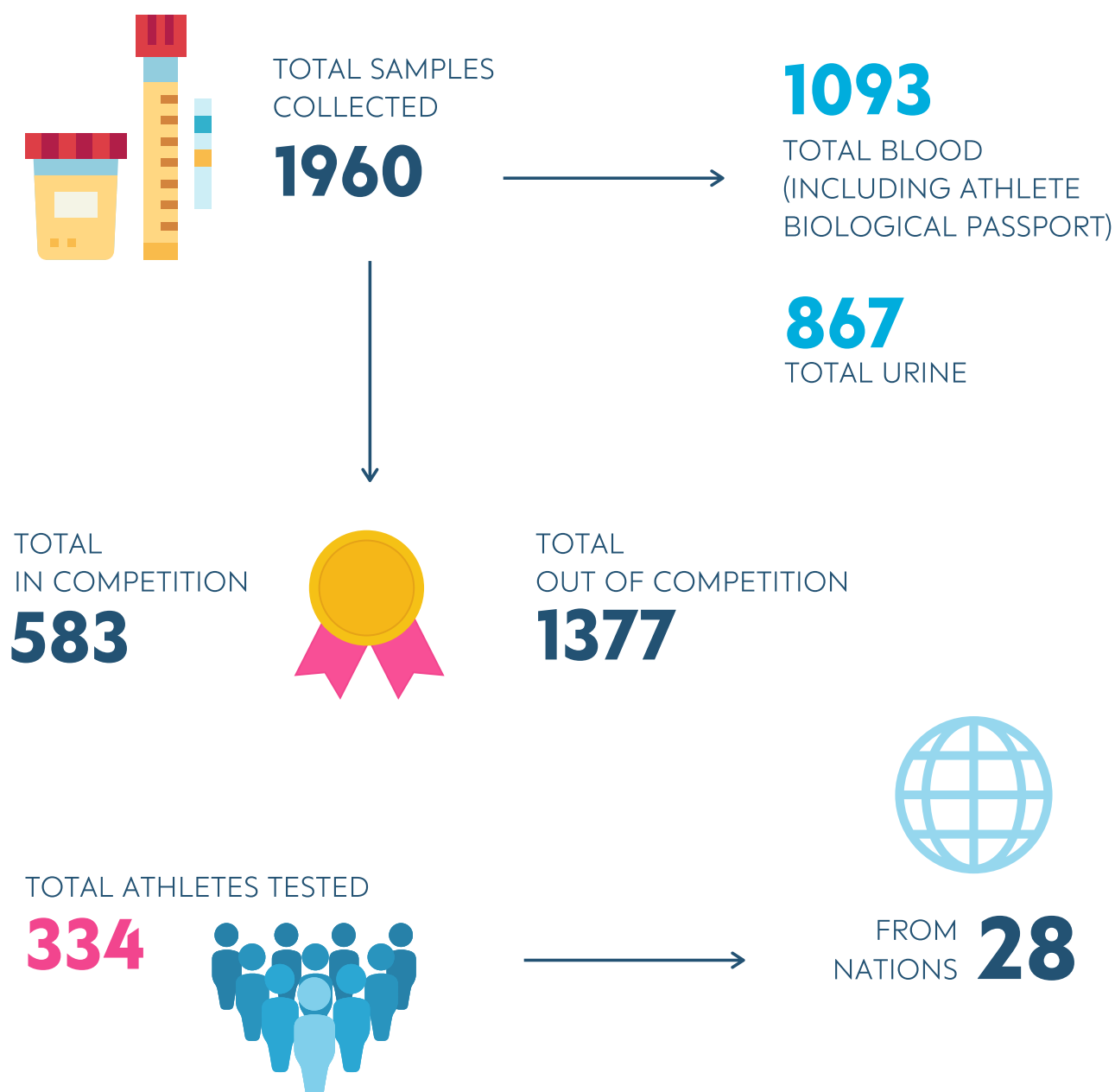
Strategy for long stored samples (storage & re-analysis) Strategic direction of innovative testing investigation methods

The group holds one meeting per year and is on hand for individual consultancy on a case by case basis, as required by the BIU and FIS.



BIU APPROACH TO ANTI-DOPING

ANTI-DOPING SAMPLE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS (MAY 2020 - APRIL 2021)



BIU APPROACH TO ANTI-DOPING

CASE MANAGEMENT

Throughout its first year in operation, the BIU has dedicated significant resource to pursuing anti-doping cases. This includes outstanding cases that relate to the historical Moscow Laboratory Information Management System Data stemming from the McLaren Report, such as with the case of Timofey Lapshin; or Athlete Biological Passport cases, such as that of former Russian biathlete, Evgeny Ustugov.

The Whereabouts process is of vital importance, as it forms the foundation of our anti-doping programme. The BIU has, and will continue to, focus resource in this area. During this period, we have seen 27 Whereabouts failures, which have stressed the need for the Unit to focus on greater Whereabouts education, to draw attention to the responsibilities elite biathletes have under the World Anti-Doping Code.

The BIU has also been heavily engaged in two ongoing large-scale projects, namely the IBU External Review Commission and the Laboratory Information Management System data resulting from the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Russia investigation (pertaining to the McLaren Report).

OPERATION LIMS

The BIU has been conducting its own internal investigation and analysis of the Moscow Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) database, together with the assistance of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Intelligence and Investigation Department, to look into evidence of doping that emerged from the 2016 McLaren Report.

As part of this intense project, the Unit continues to conduct follow-up investigations to identify further potential Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) of other biathletes, based on evidence disclosed by the McLaren Report and the LIMS data. Getting to the bottom of cases such as this, based on historical data, will allow the biathlon community to draw a line under this challenging era for the sport and look to the future.

BIU APPROACH TO ANTI-DOPING


THE EXTERNAL REVIEW COMMISSION

On 1 February, the IBU published the final report of the independent External Review Commission (ERC). The ERC was the result of a full investigation, initiated in November 2018, into allegations made against former IBU President Anders Besseberg and former IBU Secretary General Nicole Resch. Following an exhaustive investigation, the ERC provided a number of recommendations, including the further investigation and consideration by the BIU Board of potential IBU Rules violations, committed by senior members of the former IBU Executive Board.

The BIU was provided a full unredacted copy of the report, together with all supporting evidence, to determine whether to undertake any further investigations and whether to bring disciplinary charges for breach of the IBU rules that were in place at the relevant time. The BIU will provide any findings of rule violations and other breaches to IBU rules to its board, along with a recommendation by the Head of the BIU. The Independent members of the BIU Board will then consider the findings and determine whether or not, subsequent action is required.

BIU Chair, Louise Reilly, said:

“The conclusions of the External Review Commission are deeply troubling and will be thoroughly reviewed by the Unit. It is precisely to detect and prevent instances such as these occurring that the Unit was created, to ensure all of biathlon’s stakeholders can have confidence that ethical issues in the sport will be addressed independently and expertly”.



"I ALWAYS FIGHT
AGAINST THE OPINION
THAT IN SPORT, A LOT OF
ATHLETES ARE USING
DOPING, I REALLY
BELIEVE THAT THE SPORT
IS CLEAN, BUT I HOPE TO
HELP MAKE IT EVEN
MORE CLEAN AND FAIR."

Anastasiya Merkurshyna,
IBU World Championships Medalist

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

During a challenging year with public health restrictions resulting from the pandemic, the BIU has been committed to fulfilling its important communications and education role, ensuring biathletes and other stakeholders within the biathlon community are kept informed of rules and regulations and the Unit's roles in preserving those values and upholding the integrity of the sport. The BIU's communications and education outreach efforts have covered a number of variety of tactics.



PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

OUTREACH & ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

SEPT 2020	Coach Webinar Week - Anti-Doping Education
NOV 2020	BU IOC Development Camp, AD Education
DEC 2020	BIU education monitoring partnership with UMIT Institute for Sport Alpine Medicine and Health Tourism to build and implement a comprehensive clean sport education programme.
JAN 2021	ITA Anti-Doping Webinar
FEB 2021	FITA Anti-Doping Webinar In-person meetings with athletes committee In-person meeting with coaches working group
JAN - MARCH 2021	Media interviews surrounding the IBU World Cup and ERC Report
MARCH 2021	Anti-Doping Webinar for Athletes at Youth & Junior World Championships
ALL YEAR	NADOs Presentations and a meetings on strengthening cooperation

CONTACT

We thank you for your continued support in upholding the integrity of our sport.

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