

Minutes from IBOF nations' meeting May 27, 2026

Date: Wednesday May 27, 2026, 19:00-20:00 CET, Google Meet

Invited: All IBOF nations

Present: Finland (Antti Iivari), Great Britain (Colin Blackburn), Sweden (Klaes Axelsson), IBOF (Chairman Hans Mandahl)

Comments: Submitted comments ahead of the meeting by the Czech Republic, Denmark, Great Britain, Finland and the Netherlands

1. Opening of the meeting

IBOF Chairman Hans Mandahl welcomed the meeting participants and opened the meeting.

2. Handling of the Swedish proposal for gender-equal relays in M21 and W21 at the World Biathlon Orienteering Championships, WBOC

Summary of the participated nations' meeting discussion, together with the submitted comments given ahead:

- a) Right now, a change in the W21 relay from two legs to three legs will be very difficult for the smaller countries when it comes to putting together a W21 relay team. Only Sweden, Finland, and maybe Denmark, can manage that. Sweden and Finland could in that case have three 3-legs-team each, Denmark maybe one team and other nations zero teams. That would result in an almost two-nation WBOC relay in the W21 class, and that is not the way that will bring more women to the sport.

Conclusion: It is not the time to extend the number of legs from two to three for the W21 relay.

Decision: No change in the number of legs for the W21 class. Two legs remain.

- b) How about the M21 class? What is the right way to go? The comment from both Denmark and Finland is that nothing new has come up since the last time the question was up for discussion, in Denmark in April 2024.

A change from three to two legs in the M21 class has been seen as negative for the men's relay, the nations have said.

The question is whether having gender-equal relays with the same number of legs in the relay, with two legs for both W21 and M21, is more important than having a more interesting men's relay with three legs. The meeting noted that at the moment, an interesting men's relay is ahead in reducing the number of legs to the same (two legs) as in the W21 class.

Conclusion: Changing from three to two legs in the M21 class, will give a less interesting men's relay, even though it then means that the goal of achieving gender-equal relays isn't reached.

Decision: No change in the number of legs for the M21 class. Three legs remain.

3. Closing of the meeting

Hans Mandahl thanked the participants and ended the meeting.

Meeting minutes,

Hans Mandahl

Chairman

IBOF - International Biathlon Orienteering Federation

Hans Mandahl, Chairman

Phone: +46 (0)70 527 18 32

E-mail: info@ibof.org