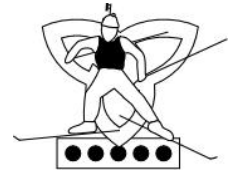


BIATHLON ONTARIO

OPERATIONAL PLAN 2009 THROUGH 2012



Biathlon Ontario's Mission

Biathlon Ontario (BiOn) is the voice of Biathlon in Ontario as an integral member of Biathlon Canada.

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

BiOn provides the framework for Ontario biathlon clubs and their individual members to participate in national programs established by the National Sport Organization, Biathlon Canada. 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 clubs work together, to coordinate and enhance the delivery of common programs.

Operational Priorities and Implementation Plan

In the next three years, Biathlon Ontario will require a 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.

- Implement the new Board and Executive structure as approved by the membership at the AGM on May 30, 2009.
- Build the committees to support the new Board structure.
- 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.
- Develop a marketing/promotion plan to broaden the visibility of our sport and our member clubs and programs.
- Increase our membership (see member recruitment plan).

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.

- 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 currently have two level 2 coach courses scheduled for this summer and are planning Gold courses as requested by some clubs.
- 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.
- Encourage parents of younger athletes to take the Gold level coach course so that they may assist in their local club programs.
- 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.
- Establish more “mentoring” partnerships with higher level coaches.

- Train more Learning Facilitators (LFs) across the province so that we can decrease travel costs to bring in LFs.
- Actively recruit qualified coaches in Ontario who are no longer BiOn members.
- 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.
- Train more officials in every club to ensure that all clubs are capable of running events independently.
- Encourage members to take the on-line Entry level officials course.
- Offer in-class Entry level officials course for clubs who request it, as a means of training more officials in each club.
- 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.

- Assist the member clubs to ensure delivery of LTAD-stage appropriate programs.
- 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.
- Hold a summer Ontario Cup race series to attract non-skiers to the sport, as well as to keep our members active.
- Hold “Give it a Shot!” demonstrations and try-outs of air rifle biathlon at local Community and Cultural Festivals and events.
- Work with Cross Country Ontario to hold air rifle biathlon demonstrations and “Give it a Shot!” opportunities at Ontario Cup ski races and the Ontario Midget Championships.
- Assist the member clubs in promoting their events to their local media in order to raise the visibility of biathlon in Ontario.
- Continue discussions with clubs in Thunder Bay, Duntroon and Sudbury 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.
- Provide assistance to clubs who are interested in running a pilot project in “adaptive” biathlon.

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.

- 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.
- Monitor the results of Ontario athletes at all races to help to identify potential high performance athletes.
- Hold annual Ontario Biathlon Championship.
- 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).
- Promote the development of Level 3 and higher coaches to support a high performance program.
- Organize high performance testing and dry-land and on-snow training camps.
- Provide coaching support for the Ontario team at Nationals Championships, and when possible, at North American Cup races.

Approved by Resolution of the Board May 31, 2009