



FIB Athletes Committee (AC) Meeting

17th of April 2025

Online

MINUTES

1. Opening of the Meeting

Rebecca Draper welcomes everybody to the AC meeting and informs that four members are present.

2. Roll Call

AC members present:

Rebecca Draper, USA	Chair President
Gian Luca Beeler, SUI	Vice President
Jordan Braam, NED	AC Member
Judith Waller, GEB	AC Member

Apologies:

Sanna Gustafsson, SWE	AC Member
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Four (4) AC members present, the quorum of three (3) was formed

Protocol by Gian Luca Beeler

3. Results of the AC-Survey

The AC created a survey for all the athletes during the World Championship (WCS) 2025 (Uppsala and Lidköping) to gather perspective in hopes of enhancing the WCS experience. The survey took place online upon completion of the WCS and was shared by a link. There were 14 questions that were about the WCS and the experience for the athletes. All the results are published on the webpage of the AC (<https://worldbandy.com/ac-minutes-and-reports/>).

Representativeness:

Out of 309 athletes, 119 responded, a 38.5% response rate.

Of these responses, 58% were from the B-pool, and the gender split was 59.6% male and 40.6% female. The AC sincerely thanks everyone who contributed their insights and all those who helped share the survey link.

Summary of the results:

Lidköping:

Overall, the athletes were quite happy with the organization of the tournament. The positives include; the athletes liked the AC's idea and implementation of the individual goal music per team and that should be continued at future WCS. However, there are several points that could be improved. The hotel stay and over-priced hotel cost were extremely concerning to some teams. The transportation situation was quite difficult for some teams. Teams playing at 7am had to walk to the rink because there wasn't transportation available. The timing of the buses to and from the rink and hotels were not ideal and should have been running more often. Athletes' food options were very limited and costly.

On-ice warm-up is preferred, as there was very little time on-ice before the game. The athletes' name introduction before each game should be conducted while the players are warming up/skating on the ice, not standing in line before the national anthems. For the Women's B group, there were no medals or trophies for podium finishers. There should be equal MVP 'Best' elections for the B group at the banquet and the schedule was not fair between the A and B groups. There weren't MVPs of the match in Lidköping like there was in Uppsala, this was disappointing. A proposal from our side is in the next topic.

Uppsala:

The organization of the WCS was quite good as well. For example the location and the warm-up situation was ideal. Athletes were not satisfied with the communication beforehand (e.g. the lead time, but the reasons for that could be different). Unfortunately, the AC's idea of individual goal music per team was not offered to the Men's B group. A big wish of the athletes is also that the B-tournament takes place at the same time and place like the A-tournament. A proposal from our side is in the next topic as well.

Overall there was a wish as well, that there should be again a Development Camp in Sweden for players (and coaches).

4. Statement to the future World Championship

These are requests and demands from the athletes for future World Championships.

- Details about the opening ceremony were shared with teams less than a week before the tournament started. This information needs to be communicated months in advance to both men's and women's teams so countries can plan and book flights accordingly.
- World Championship location and dates should be announced earlier so federations and athletes can plan accordingly.
- The hotel cost/stay per team should all be equal. It is unacceptable that teams pay double to what other teams pay.
- The transportation to and from the rink should run more frequently and be available for all early morning games.
- Food options should be free or at least reasonably priced along with a wide food variety which is needed for proper nutrition to compete.
- There is significant disparity in regard to the game times, schedules, ceremonies, medals, MVP awards between all groups and especially the overall attention given to the Women's B group. The game times, schedules, ceremonies, medals, MVP awards should be equal between genders and pools. If it is necessary to have 7am games, the early games should be split between gender and pools.
- On-ice warm up is preferred, even if it's a short 10 minute opportunity.
- Standard game playing time should be 2x45 minutes.
- Continue the individual team goal music.
- The A-tournament and the B-tournament took place in different places at different dates. It is recommended that the A/B and women/men need to have the tournament at the same place at the same time. A host needs two rinks (we know that this is not very realistic) or the tournament lasts for two weeks where one week A pool and one week B pool or one week the women, the other the men. With the latter, relegation games between the winner of the WCS B and the last of the WCS A could take place. This would do justice to the large gap between the two groups (like the women at the WCS 2025).
- Both groups should receive bronze/silver/gold-medals.
- Both groups should receive MVP per game.
- Both groups should receive 'Best' awards at the banquet.
- Option for January, February or March World Championship is supported by the athletes.
- A Bandy Development Camp is supported by the athletes.

5. Hall of Fame Requirement rewrite proposal

The Federation of International Bandy (FIB) established on the 7th of June 2024 the Terms of Reference for the FIB Hall of Fame. The most outstanding individuals should be awarded.

The AC approves the Hall of Fame and sees the value of it. But the AC believes that the admission criteria are too high for players and completely unattainable within some players' careers because of the frequency of WCS. We discussed different options and want to keep checking the criteria. A proposal should be defined in the next meeting.

6. Further matters

- The survey results are available here: <https://worldbandy.com/ac-minutes-and-reports/>
Next meeting: in the next month

7. Closing of the meeting

The Chair closes the meeting and thanks everyone for their effort.