



FIB Athletes Committee (AC) Meeting

14th of July 2025

Online

MINUTES

1. Opening of the Meeting

Rebecca Draper welcomes everybody to the meeting.

2. Roll Call

AC members present:

Rebecca Draper, USA	Chair
Gian Luca Beeler, SUI	Vice Chair
Sanna Gustafsson, SWE	AC Member
Jordan Braam, NED	AC Member
Judith Waller, GBR	AC Member

Five (5) AC members present, the quorum of three (3) was formed

Protocol by Gian Luca Beeler

3. Report IAF 2025

The AC takes note of the report by Gian Luca Beeler. The Executive Committee received the report as well.

The Athletes Committee aimed for the olympic dream

The 12th International Athletes Forum (IAF) in Lausanne, Switzerland had over 400 athlete representatives. There were mostly Athletes Committee members from each National Olympic Committee (NOC) and there were several, like us, who represented

a specific sport. This time, bandy was officially represented by the Vice-Chair of the Athletes Committee (AC) of the FIB.

Time Schedule:

Day 1 11.06.2025 - IOC AC update, interview with Rafael Nadal (former tennis player), social media workshop, task and importance of an AC

Day 2 12.06.2025 - Q&A Thomas Bach (IOC president until 23.06.2025), Q&A Kirsty Coventry (IOC president after 23.06.2025), effective AC tools, upcoming Olympic Games, mental health workshop

Thomas Bach, who is president of the IOC until the 23th of June 2025, answered once again questions from all the athletes representatives. Also, the new president of the IOC, Kirsty Coventry, spoke about their future plans and she emphasized the importance of the athletes. The special guest this time was Rafael Nadal, two-time gold medalist at the Olympics. He spoke about sportsmanship and about his feeling to represent his country.

The AC could proudly show that we have an active athletes community. I spoke to many different representatives, like Emma Terho (IOC AC president, former ice hockey player from Finland), Magnus Nedregotten (NOC AC president Norway, Curling) or Agata Plechan (AC president floorball from Poland). My goal was to spread the word of bandy and to learn about different challenges that athletes committees face.

It was a good opportunity to make our sport, at least among athletes, more popular. There were also many interesting conversations about AC topics to pick up, like mental health or the communication topic for the AC's to athletes.

On the other hand, not all topics were particularly relevant to us as a non-olympic sport, since the road to the Olympics is still long for us.

Nevertheless, from the point of view of the AC, this opportunity is worth taking to make connections, spread the word of bandy and to learn for our duty as AC.



4. Survey Topics for EC

At the previous AC meeting from the 17th of April 2025, the AC summarized the survey results and topics for the next World Championships. We see it as our mission to continue to highlight these topics again, as these are the concerns of the athletes themselves. There are two points discussed during this meeting

- World Championship location and dates should be announced earlier so federations and athletes can plan accordingly.

When will it be clear for each federation where and when they will play?

The FIB website announced that the WCS would be for Men's A and Women's . The announcement did not specify if it was Women's A only or A and B. There needs to be more transparency and clear communication

When will there be an update on the B pool dates and location?

- The AC was unable to find the pool play rules and by-laws regarding relegation on the FIB website.

Where do these rules reside?

Can they be added to the website for transparency?

What happens if a nation doesn't show up when they are scheduled for games?

What if a nation doesn't want to move up to the higher tier?

- Reiterate the Athlete Survey Results

To the Organizing Federation:

Provide details regarding the opening ceremony and banquet early in the announcements so countries can book flights and hotels accordingly. This was not provided early enough for the 2025 WCS and some countries were not able to attend the opening ceremony and the banquet.

Hotel costs for each country should be the same. There is no reason for discrepancies.

Transportation to and from ice rink and hotel, should run more frequently and be available for all early games. During the 2025 WCS, transportation was not provided for the earliest games.

Food options for countries should be free or reasonably priced. The food variety needs to be more appropriate for athletes, as the proper nutrition is vital for optimal competition.

On-ice warm up is preferred, even if it's a short 10-minute opportunity.

Continue the individual team goals during the game.

To FIB:

Game times, schedules, ceremonies, medals, MVP awards, game gifts should be equal between genders and pools.

The recommendation is to have A and B pools for both genders to play during the same week. We understand that this is difficult because many countries lack adequate number of rinks. The second recommendation is for the host federation to have two consecutive weeks of WCS with one overlapping weekend. One week of A pool Men's and Women's and one week of B pool Men's and Women's.

Each A and B pool, each gender, should receive gold/silver/bronze medals

Each A and B pool, each gender, should receive MVP per game.

Each A and B pool, each gender, should receive 'Best' awards at the banquet.

To the Technical Committee:

Each A and B pool, each gender, should play for 2 x 45 minutes games.

A relegation game between the winner of the B and the last place of the A group could take place.

5. Consultation of the AC about the Gender Policy (request from the Gender Equity Committee)

The Gender Equity Committee (GEC) contacted the AC to gather athletes' input, information, and point of view on several questions regarding defining gender and gender policy within the FIB.

How should gender be defined? Should it be based on passport, birth gender, testosterone levels, or other criteria?

The current FIB policy is for passports to be provided to the FIB for participation and verification of citizenship. If the passport gender is different than the gender on the participant's birth certificate and that player chooses to play on a team that is not the gender on the birth certificate, that player must provide both passport and birth certificate to participate.

If that player participates in an FIB tournament, they must provide the birth certificate and the test results that the requirements have been met.

At this time will be the responsibility of the national federation to perform the testing and provide test results that meet the requirements. (The AC cannot provide information on what those requirements should be, what the hormone levels should be, etc.)

If that player does not provide the documentation and testing results, and participates in a FIB tournament, the team should receive a warning before the tournament. And if they still ignore the specification the whole team should be disqualified.

Who should be eligible to play in which league? For example, men in women's leagues versus women in men's leagues, and considerations regarding transgender athletes.

The FIB makes only the rules for their tournaments. Individual female players and transgender-men may participate in tournaments on a male team if requirements are met. Individual male players may not participate in tournaments on a female team. Transgender-women may participate on a female team if requirements are met. Requirements need to be established by the FIB. It is recommended that the FIB not be responsible for the cost of any test that meets the requirements of the FIB.

What is the importance of inclusion within the sport of bandy?

When players of all cultures, race, genders, and socioeconomic backgrounds feel welcomed, respected, and empowered to participate; the team, organization, federation and the sport is strengthened, and players' diversity is celebrated. All people are encouraged to play, as long as it is fair for the competition.

Any other things we should take into account?

Any regulation with hormone level tests should be reviewed by experts. We recognize that we are not scientific experts, and as such, any rules or policies regarding this matter should be informed and guided by credible scientific research and expertise. Fairness and feasibility should be considered as part of the procedure.

6. Hall of Fame change recommendation

In the Categories and Requirements section of the FIB Hall of Fame Terms of Reference, each category currently has a game or year requirement. The AC recommends removing the game or year requirement from each category.

7. Further matters

- AC – member responsibilities for countries
- How the AC should communicate to athletes and federations
- Inform our athletes about the IOCs Athletes365

Next meeting: in a month

8. Closing of the meeting