

# LITHUANIAN BIATHLON FEDERATION SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2030



# A member of the biathlon family,

The Lithuanian Biathlon Federation (LBF), taking into account the current threats to the global climate and in response to the increasing involvement of the public, political leaders and the sporting community worldwide in addressing issues of sustainable development, through this Sustainability Policy seeks to contribute to the achievement of the overall sustainability goals, perceiving sustainability as a commitment to the responsible use of resources for our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to provide for their needs.

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THE PUBLICATION PROVIDES EASY-TO-USE INFORMATION ON:

## Sustainability policy

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Office organisation Waste and

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waste management

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Communication

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Food

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Transport

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Accommodation

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Suppliers and partners

# Sustainability principle

Small actions matter

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**LBF (Lithuanian Biathlon Federation) recognises the importance of international commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change. In assessing the efforts of the international sports community to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in sporting activities, the LBF refers to the International Olympic Committee's policy document "Sport for Climate Action".**



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**We in the biathlon community can be proud that our sport promotes active physical activity surrounded by natural surroundings, making biathlon unique. The members of the biathlon community are able to combine their activities with an active lifestyle, taking into account the requirements necessary to preserve the natural environment. Therefore, with the necessary skills and experience, we are in a favourable position to pursue further goals related to sustainability and sustainable development in the social, economic and environmental dimensions. We can also implement sustainable and responsible behaviour through our actions, not only within our own community but also by actively spreading the message of biathlon as a sustainable sport.**



**The Sustainable Development Goals adopted within the framework of this Sustainability Policy shall apply to persons directly involved in the activities of the LBF, LBF members and their affiliates, athletes, coaches, spectators, partners and anyone else involved in any way with the LBF and the sport of biathlon.**

**In line with the priority areas and challenges identified in international documents, we envisage that we will pursue changes towards greater sustainability in the following areas:**

# 1

## Reducing the impacts of climate change

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**LBF follows a climate neutral approach in organising its activities, for example by analysing projected and actual carbon emissions. It strives to find science-based solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to offset emissions by contributing to climate change mitigation projects. LBF is also committed to promoting awareness of environmental and sustainability issues by supporting active engagement on climate change issues among its community and the general public through its communication tools.**

## Reducing the impacts of climate change

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**Travelling to and from biathlon events and the use of fossil fuels produce emissions that are a contributing factor to climate change. The movement of vehicles on roads not designed for high traffic volumes and the temporary parking of vehicles on vacant land can have negative short- and long-term effects on soil, groundwater, landscape, flora, fauna and local communities. Finally, the LBF, as the organisation responsible for the sport of biathlon in Lithuania, also causes emissions through its administrative activities. LBF, biathlon clubs and community members commit themselves to use and promote the use of alternative modes of travel that have a lower climate impact (e.g. multiple people travelling in the same vehicle), and to strive to use digital technology solutions in the organisation of administrative activities where there is no need to bring people together in person.**

# 2

## Protection of natural habitats

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**Biathlon is unique in that it takes place in a natural environment, but the organisation of events, the presence of a large number of participants in one area and the effects of sporting activities can have a negative impact on the environment of an area. Organisers of biathlon activities must ensure that sporting activities in urbanised or natural environments are conducted with the minimum of footprint and disturbance, with particular attention to the protection of flora and fauna. The biathlon community is committed to promoting awareness of the impact of people on the environment and to preserving natural areas within easy reach of the general public. It is also important to continue the commitment not to leave behind any equipment or rubbish that damages the natural environment after biathlon activities.**



# 3

## Compliance with rules and cooperation

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**The biathlon community undertakes to abide by local laws or regulations governing behaviour and restrictions in certain areas. In order to ensure the reputation of the sport of biathlon, it is the responsibility of each individual member of the biathlon community to demonstrate respect for public and private property and to avoid potential damage. The organisers of biathlon activities undertake to coordinate their planned activities with all interested parties (e.g. public sector bodies).**

**In order to promote the implementation of sustainability objectives and practices, it is recommended to establish collaborative links between local and international organisations from different sectors (public, non-governmental, sports business), as the positive results achieved through joint efforts are felt by a wider range of beneficiaries. To introduce biathlon to the general public, there is a broad opportunity to present the sport as an environmentally sensitive, sustainable activity that inspires people to contribute to wider sustainability goals through their involvement in biathlon.**

# 4

## Sustainable use of resources

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**The materials often used for the organisation of biathlon events and equipment, such as plastics and textiles, are resource-intensive in the production process and are often difficult to recycle. The organisers of biathlon activities commit themselves to ensuring that the equipment and infrastructure used in biathlon activities are built in a resource-conscious way. The sustainable organisation of biathlon activities is based on the principles of the circular economy: reduce, reuse, recycle, repair and sort. The LBF and other organisations involved in the sport of biathlon need to reduce the amount of materials used, favouring renewable materials, certified products, manufacturers and partners committed to and putting into practice sustainability objectives.**

**By adapting our event management practices to the principles of sustainable development, we can reduce the use of material and financial resources in every way. Collaboration between members of the biathlon community and with external partners to find innovative and sustainable solutions can enhance the development of sustainable habits and the achievement of the community's sustainability goals.**

# 5

## Social integrity

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**Social aspects are important in meeting the sustainability objectives. The LBF is committed to engaging in dialogue with members of the sporting community, to creating an open, inclusive and democratic decision-making process, to ensuring a working environment that protects the rights of employees, and to working against any form of corruption, discrimination based on gender, race, creed, religion, sexual identity, disability, and unsportsmanlike conduct.**

**The importance of the sport movement in promoting healthy lifestyles to the general public should be noted. Promoting the importance of healthy eating helps to reduce public health problems and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the food industry. It is desirable that the supply chain of food offered during biathlon events should include as many locally sourced, sustainably produced products as possible, and should take into account the requirements of vegetarian or vegan diets.**

# Sustainability policy

**It is a valuable tool that indicates the level of ambition when it comes to sustainability. It is a document that can be presented to donors, suppliers, contractors and volunteers. The Sustainability Policy should be widely followed in all activities of the organisation.**

Link to the Sustainability Policy with a shared vision for the organisation;

Communicate your sustainability policy to sponsors, contractors, partners;

Build on established sustainability policy in case of any uncertainties during events.

# Office

**The organisation's aims to move towards sustainability are also demonstrated in the office.**



# Waste and waste management

**Littering is an environmental problem that we face every day.**

**In the journey from a linear to a circular economy in a disruptive society, an important point is waste management and recycling. But the best prevention of litter is not to create it.**



**Avoid printed material**

TICKETS, LEAFLETS, POSTERS, THANK-YOU NOTES, ETC.



**Use reusable temporary event structures**

WALLS, BORDERS, CLOSED, ADVERTISING STANDS, MARKS AND FIGURES.



**Give virtual or practical rewards and prizes;**



**Make it easy for all event participants to sort their waste;**



**Tidy up your surroundings before the event, as existing rubbish attracts new rubbish - people tend to litter where it is already littered;**



**Leave a tidy environment after the event - tidier than you found it.**

# Communication

**Transparent and active communication builds trust in the event's sustainability initiatives.**

**It should be easily understood by everyone, regardless of language ability, disability or other circumstances.**

1

Look for attractive ways to introduce participants and guests on the topic of sustainability;

Communicate via social networks, Share sustainability initiatives;

2

3

Highlight one or two unique initiatives, making them more memorable;

Prioritise digital communication instead of written communication;

4

5

Maintain communication before, during and after the event, your sustainability policy when communicating.

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# Food

**Every event is catered. The right catering strategy can have a significant impact on the environment and educate event visitors.**

- 1 Provide food made from seasonal, local, organic and fairly produced products;
- 2 Ensure vegetarian or vegan options;
- 3 Refuse to use disposable crockery and other disposables;
- 4 Use the deposit system for cups and dishes;
- 5 Refuse disposable water and other drinks bottles;
- 6 Ensure you can conveniently refill drinking water in drinking fountains;
- 7 Reduce food waste the quantity when planning portion sizes;
- 8 Donate to or give the left food.



# Transport

**One of the toughest sustainability challenges we face is the problems posed by the use of fossil fuels.**

Encourage employees, colleagues and event participants to use public transport, bicycles or other alternative means of transport;

Invite participants to cooperate and travel to the event by one vehicle;

Choose a venue close to public transport stops;

Organise meetings, conferences and seminars virtually;

Use cars powered by renewable energy;

Contract with taxi or shuttle companies that support sustainability;

Use car sharing services.

# Accommodation

**When hosting guests or organising an event, you can make an important decision by choosing accommodation that is based on sustainability principles.**

- I Promote accommodation that is proactive in tackling environmental issues;
- II In your sustainability policy, make it a requirement to use green-labelled accommodation when managing your organisation's internal affairs and travelling;
- III Support green-labelled establishments and negotiate special offers for event participants and guests;
- IV Organise transport to and from accommodation, reducing the number of cars and parking spaces needed.

# Suppliers and partners

**Your business purchases various products and services. This is a great opportunity to influence suppliers to act more sustainably in all parts of the supply chain.**

**These processes face a variety of challenges and each purchase must take into account both social and environmental challenges.**

- ↘ Choose the partners you will work with, identify common values;
  - ↘ Determine sustainability requirements for suppliers
  - ↘ Save product contracts
  - ↘ return of unused products;
  - ↘ Use electronic contracts, purchase receipts;
  - ↘ Develop a sponsorship policy based on sustainability considerations;
  - ↘ Remember that sponsorship does not have to be backed by financial support;
  - ↘ Buy local products or services;
  - ↘ Make sure that the planned buying the product is really necessary;
  - ↘ Check whether the item you want to buy is available for rent or borrowed;
  - ↘ Buy green labelled products and services (laundry, cleaning products, office supplies, accommodation and cleaning services);
  - ↘ Take more account than the product price, and over its lifetime the cost of the period;
  - ↘ Keep ethical and honestly catch-day-to-day purchases.
- If you need to buy the products and services you have mentioned, choose them by



The most commonly cited barriers that prevent organisations from moving towards sustainability

## Price

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Sustainable alternatives are more expensive.

**Sometimes this may be true, but it is more likely to believe - well, that more savings will be made by adopting sustainable alternatives. Sustainable solutions tend to bring more value to the end result.**

## Time

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We're all very busy - we don't have time to bother changing some attitudes

**All organisations should take time to reflect on where the organisation is heading and what is happening in the world today. Gradually, the implementation of sustainable change should become a routine part of everyday activities and should be integrated into decision-making. If sustainable change becomes a burden, it means that certain ways of working have not been applied properly.**

## Resisting change

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Internal resistance to changing the way you act, work

**Often this is done through statements such as *"it doesn't matter"* or *"we already do enough"*. This barrier can be overcome through effective leadership, internal communication and encouragement. It is better to embrace positive change ourselves than to change only when it becomes mandatory.**

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## Non-supporting sponsors

Fear that sponsors or partners won't accept change

**It is important to keep in regular contact with your supporters and help them understand your organisation's objectives. Most of the sponsors and partners may already be on a similar path. Regular communication can further strengthen the partnership and bring mutual benefits.**

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## Lack of evidence

It is not always clear which alternative is more sustainable to justify action

**There is usually no one right answer, but that should not be a reason to do nothing. Try to make informed choices based on what is already known or on your own priorities. Learn and grow from new experiences**

