WINTER WORLD MASTERS GAMES • FINLAND 2028

## Biathlon · Winter World Masters Games 2028

# INVITATION TO COMPETE AND SPORTS INFORMATION

Lahti, 14–18 January 2028 · Version 1, October 2026

## 1. Welcome to Lahti

The Winter World Masters Games 2028 bring 14 winter sports to Lahti, Heinola and Levi on 14–23 January 2028. Biathlon is in Lahti on 14–18 January, in the Lahti Ski stadium: the shooting range, the penalty loop and the start/finish areas are on one site, in front of the stands.

Three races: sprint, individual and relay. Every race is free technique, under the IBU Event and Competition Rules. Distances are set by age class.

The races are organised by the Lahti Ski Club, the club behind the FIS World Cups in Lahti and the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2029.

The podium is personal. Every age class from 30 to 75+ races for its own medals. Nothing stops us.

## 2. Organisers

| Role | Organisation |
|---|---|
| Event owner | World Masters Sports (WMS) |
| Organising committee | Salppuri Oy, Lahti |
| Competition organiser | Lahden Hiihtoseura (Lahti Ski Club), biathlon section |
| Rules | IBU Event and Competition Rules |
| Technical delegate | Appointed by the organiser |
| Contact | nothingstopsus@masters2028.com, subject “Biathlon” |

## 3. Venue

| Venue | Course |
|---|---|
| Lahti Sports Center, Lahti Ski stadium | Shooting range, 50 m, prone and standing |
| Lahti Sports Center, Lahti Ski stadium | Penalty loop, 150 m |
| Lahti Sports Center, Salpausselkä courses and trails | Race loops, free technique |

- The range, the penalty loop, the start and the finish are in the stadium. Rifle control, the race office, changing rooms and waxing rooms are at the Sports Center, close to each other.
- Cross-country skiing, ski jumping and Nordic combined share the same sports site. The Games Centre (Masters Hub) is next door.
- Helsinki Airport to Lahti: about 100 km, one hour by train or car.

## 4. Who can enter

- You are 30 or older on 31 December 2027, born in 1997 or earlier.
- You are a member of a ski or biathlon club under your national ski or biathlon federation. No IBU licence is needed.
- Current members of a national team in the 2027–28 season cannot take part.
- You have your own accident, health and liability insurance, including repatriation, valid in Finland for training and competition. The organiser takes out no insurance for participants.
- You compete at your own risk. By starting, you accept the condition of the course, the range and the safety measures in place.
- You are responsible for your own fitness to compete. No medical certificate is needed; you confirm your health in the registration.
- Masters compete for themselves. There are no national delegations.

- Participants holding Russian or Belarusian citizenship may attend the Winter World Masters Games 2028 only if they also hold citizenship of another country or are permanent residents of a country other than Russia or Belarus, and they participate individually without using or displaying any Russian or Belarusian flags, symbols, names, abbreviations, colour combinations, anthems, or other national identifiers. This decision has been made by the Local Organising Committee and follows the policies of the Finnish Government and Finnish sports organisations. If the political situation changes, LOC is able to re-consider the decision any time.

## 5. Age classes

Your age on 31 December 2027 sets your age class. Men and women compete in separate classes, in five-year steps:

30–34 · 35–39 · 40–44 · 45–49 · 50–54 · 55–59 · 60–64 · 65–69 · 70–74 · 75+

Classes with few entries may share a start group. Results and medals are always per class. The top three of every class receive medals.

**Relay classes**, in ten-year steps. The youngest team member sets the class.

| Men | Women |
|---|---|
| M1: 30–39 | W1: 30–39 |
| M2: 40–49 | W2: 40–49 |
| M3: 50–59 | W3: 50+ |
| M4: 60+ | |

## 6. The races

| Race | Day | Shooting | Penalty | Start |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sprint | Saturday 15 January | 2 bouts: prone, standing | 150 m penalty loop per miss | Interval start by class |
| Individual | Sunday 16 January | 4 bouts: prone, standing, prone, standing | 1 minute per miss | Interval start by class |
| Relay | Tuesday 18 January | 2 bouts per leg: prone, standing, 3 spare rounds per bout | 150 m penalty loop per miss | Mass start by class, tag zone |

**Distances by class**

| Race | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| Sprint | 30–59: 6 km · 60+: 4.5 km | 30–59: 6 km · 60+: 4.5 km |
| Individual | 30–59: 10 km · 60–69: 7.5 km · 70+: 5 km | 30–59: 7.5 km · 60+: 5 km |
| Relay | 30–59: 3 × 6 km · 60+: 3 × 4.5 km | 2 × 4.5 km |

**Shooting.** Five targets at 50 m in every bout. Small-bore biathlon rifle and ammunition per the IBU rules. You carry your rifle on the course.

**Start order.** Sprint and individual: interval start, drawn within each class, the oldest class first. Relay: mass start by class, hand-over in the tag zone.

**Relay teams.** Three men, or two women. Mixed nationalities are welcome. Enter your team at the race office by Sunday 16 January.

**Zeroing.** On the range before every race, by start group.

## 7. Programme

| Day | Biathlon | Also on |
|---|---|---|
| Friday 14 January | Official training on course and range · rifle control · Athlete Information Meeting | Opening Ceremony, Lahti · accreditation opens at the Games Centre |
| Saturday 15 January | Zeroing · Sprint, all classes · medals | |
| Sunday 16 January | Zeroing · Individual, all classes · relay entries close · medals | |
| Monday 17 January | Free day · training slot on course and range | |
| Tuesday 18 January | Zeroing · Relay, by class · medals | |

Medals are awarded every race evening at the Masters Hub, Lahti Sports & Exhibition Centre. Start lists with exact times are published on masters2028.com before the Games. Changes for weather or safety are announced at the Athlete Information Meeting and on masters2028.com.

## 8. Training

- **Friday 14 January:** official training on the course and the range, included in your entry. Rifle control is open from the start of the training.
- **Monday 17 January:** training slot on the course and the range.
- Zeroing before every race. No training on the competition course while a race is on.

## 9. Athlete Information Meeting

Friday 14 January, after the official training, Lahti Sports Center. The Athlete Information Meeting replaces the team captains' meeting. The race director presents the jury, the programme, start times, the range procedure and the weather plan. Further meetings are called when needed.

## 10. Rules

- The races follow the IBU Event and Competition Rules. They apply to everything not covered here.
- Jury of three, presented at the Athlete Information Meeting. The jury may stop a race or exclude an athlete when health or safety is at risk.
- Rifle control before the official training and before every race, at the rifle control point next to the race office. A rifle that has not passed control does not start.
- Range safety: rifles are carried unloaded outside the firing point, as the IBU rules require. Follow the range officers at all times.
- Fluor waxes are banned under the IBU rules. Skis may be tested before the start.
- Bibs: one personal bib for the sprint and the individual, collected at the race office with your accreditation. Relay bibs are handed out on race day and returned after the race. Bibs are collected after the final race. Fee for lost/damaged bib is 50€.
- Protests: in writing to the competition secretary within 15 minutes after the unofficial results are posted.
- Anti-doping: the WMS anti-doping rules and the WADA Code apply.

## 11. Rifles and ammunition

- Bring your own small-bore biathlon rifle. The organiser offers no rental rifles and no rifle storage; your rifle stays in your own care for the whole stay.
- Bringing a rifle into Finland is your responsibility. Athletes from the EU use the European Firearms Pass. Athletes from outside the EU need a Finnish import permit for the rifle and the ammunition. The guidance sheet on masters2028.com lists the permits, the customs rules and the deadlines.
- Ammunition procedures and storage according to IBU rules. More details are provided for participants before the Games.

## 12. Entry and fees

- Registration opens on 2 November 2026 at masters2028.com. The first week is reserved for pre-registered athletes. Each athlete registers and pays personally online.
- Game entry: 225 € per athlete, VAT 13.5 % included. It covers up to three sports. Biathlon counts as one sport, with all three races. There is no fee per race and no limit on entries.
- Included: all three races, official training, accreditation, welcome package, Opening and Farewell Ceremony, medal ceremonies, timing and results.
- In the Biathlon form you choose your races and give your club and federation. Relay teams are entered at the race office.
- Changes to your races are free until 30 November 2027, then 25 €.
- Late fee +50 € from 1 October 2027. Last-minute fee +100 € from 1 January 2028. Entries close on 14 January 2028.

## 13. Cancellation

| When you cancel | Refund |
|---|---|
| Until 30 June 2027 | Full refund minus 50 € admin fee |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 July – 30 November 2027 | 50 % |
| From 1 December 2027 | No refund |
| With a doctor's certificate, any time | 50 % |

Entries cannot be transferred to another person. If the organiser cancels all your sports, 50 % is refunded. The general terms and conditions and the privacy policy on masters2028.com are part of this invitation.

## 14. Results and medals

Start lists and live results are on masters2028.com. The top three in every class receive medals the same evening at the Masters Hub, Lahti Sports & Exhibition Centre. No flags, no national anthems: masters compete for themselves.

## 15. Accommodation and travel

Hotels and transport in Lahti are booked through masters2028.com. Local transport runs at WWMG rates with the transit card available to purchase at a special price. More information at masters2028.com

## 16. Coaches and companions

Access to the coaching zone at the range requires accreditation. Coaches register as accompanying persons on masters2028.com. Registration for accompanying persons opens in 2027.

## 17. Contact

nothingstopsus@masters2028.com · subject "Biathlon" · masters2028.com

*Attachments: IBU Event and Competition Rules; Bringing your rifle to Finland. Changes for organisational, safety or weather reasons are possible. The version date for this document is 13 October 2026.*

**NOTHING STOPS US.**
**WE ARE MASTERS.**