



**INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON UNION**

Peregrinstraße 14 / A-5020 Salzburg / AUT  
P +43 - 6 62 - 85 50 50 / F +43 - 6 62 - 855 05 08  
biathlon@ibu.at / www.biathlonworld.com

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## IBU announces new Directors of Communications and Sport

The IBU Executive Board approved the restructuring of the IBU administration on Monday and today the IBU Acting Secretary General Martin Kuchenmeister announced the appointment of the new IBU Sport Director and IBU Communication Director.

**Felix Bitterling**, from Berchtesgaden, Germany, who has since 2008 been a Race Director for the IBU Cup series, has been appointed IBU Sport Director. Mr. Bitterling has successfully built up the quality and consistency of the IBU Cup series which includes the IBU Biathlon Open European Championships. The IBU Sport Director is a new position focused on ensuring excellent administration of the IBU's Sport Department and supporting the successful coordination of the IBU events. "I am looking forward to supporting the sport and continuing to grow our sport and support our member federations and their athletes," said Mr. Bitterling.

**Christian Winkler**, a resident of Bergen, Germany, has been appointed as IBU Communications Director and will begin his full time work at the IBU Headquarters on 1 June 2018. Mr. Winkler comes to the IBU with a strong background in communications having worked most recently with Jon Tibbs Associates - JTA - in their sports communications efforts on behalf of Olympic bid committees and event organizing committees. Educated at the German Press Academy in Berlin after earning an M.A. in Political Science at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in 2010. He participated in cross country ski sport in his youth. "Biathlon is the most watched winter sport in Europe and I am very much looking forward to working with our media partners and the IBU Communications team to tell our athletes' stories to better serve our fans world-wide," said Mr. Winkler.

With these appointments, the IBU moves forward with main elements the Headquarters reorganization. "I am happy that we have been able to appoint such talented and experienced professionals to lead the Sport and Communications departments," said Mr. Kuchenmeister. "Together with the excellent work of our Race Director World Cup **Borut Nunar** and Junior Cup **Arne Eidam** as well as our experienced Communications staff I know that we will continue to improve our sport and better support our member federations and their athletes."