

REPORT ON HIGH PERFORMANCE AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES 2025

Lithuanian Badminton Federation

To:	Board of the Lithuanian Badminton Federation
From:	Technical Director
Date:	6 April 2026

Dear Board Members,

As Technical Director responsible for high performance and talent development, I am pleased to submit this comprehensive report on our activities and achievements in 2025. This year represented another important step in implementing Direction 3 of the LBF Strategic Plan 2026–2030 (High Performance and Talent Development). We continued to strengthen transparent selection processes, expanded the structured national team training system, professionalised coaching, implemented scientific athlete monitoring, and increased international exposure — all with the immediate goal of raising athletes' competitive level at European Championships in the respective age categories, and the long-term objective of Olympic qualification.

1. Collaboration with International Expert

In 2025, we continued the valuable long-term collaboration with experienced Dutch expert Martijn van Dooremalen, who initiated fundamental changes through the Olympic Solidarity Programme back in 2023. His broad expertise, ongoing support, and assistance across many aspects of the high performance structure remain an invaluable contribution to the development of badminton in Lithuania.

2. National Team Selection Process

The 2025 national team selection was conducted in January, using newly developed Player Observation Sheets approved by the Board. These assessed technical skills (shots and footwork), tactical abilities, group collaboration skills, and results in senior age categories. Club coaches were actively invited to participate in the evaluation process, ensuring full transparency.

The selection was divided into two groups:

- U19 and Elite — 3–5 January 2025 (Kaunas, Lithuania) — 17 players participated.
- U15 and U17 — 11–12 January 2025 (Kaunas, Lithuania) — 54 players participated.
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3. National Team Composition

The final 2025 national team comprised 33 athletes across all age categories:

- U15 — 11 athletes
- U17 — 11 athletes
- U19 — 8 athletes
- Elite — 3 athletes

Mid-year adjustments were made to maintain high engagement standards:

Removed:

- Skaja DAPKUTĖ (U15) — withdrew from the national team.
- Monika SUKACKAITĖ (Elite) — removed due to persistent non-participation in the training process (joint decision by national team coaches and the Technical Director).

Added:

- Gretė VELYKYTĖ (U17) — missed the selection camp due to injury but demonstrated strong motivation and commitment. After three months of careful post-injury monitoring, she was admitted to the squad (joint decision by coaches and the Technical Director).

4. Championship Participation

Our athletes represented Lithuania at major European events:

- European Elite Championships (8–13 April 2025, Horsens, Denmark) — three players: Samanta GOLUBICKAITĖ (women's singles), Jorūnė ŠALNAITĖ (women's doubles), Jorė KAVALIAUSKAITĖ (women's doubles).
- European Youth Olympic Festival (21–26 July 2025, Skopje, North Macedonia) — Uma IVANAUSKAITĖ and Daniel LEONOVICĖ competed in singles and mixed doubles. Daniel reached the quarter-finals in boys' singles; the pair also reached the quarter-finals in mixed doubles.
- U17 European Championships (29 November – 7 December 2025, Lanzarote, Spain) — participating in both team and individual events with 7 athletes: Ieva PAŠKEVIČIŪTĖ, Nomedė SENIŪNAITĖ, Gabija BERŽINSKAITĖ, Uma IVANAUSKAITĖ, Dominik TANKEVIČ, Rokas KRŪMINAS, Mykolas GRIGAS. Daniel LEONOVICĖ was absent due to surgery. Team result: 9th–16th place. Best individual results: 17th–32nd place in women's singles (Gabija BERŽINSKAITĖ), men's singles (Dominik TANKEVIČ), women's doubles (Uma IVANAUSKAITĖ / Gabija BERŽINSKAITĖ) and men's doubles (Rokas KRŪMINAS / Mykolas GRIGAS).
- European Men's and Women's Team Championships Qualification (5–7 December 2025, Druskininkai, Lithuania) — women's team: Viltė PAULAUSKAITĖ, Jogailė KELEČIŪTĖ, Samanta GOLUBICKAITĖ, Giedra VELYKYTĖ, Jorūnė ŠALNAITĖ, Aurelija RAMANECKAITĖ, Taja LEONOVICĖ, Urtė GATELYTĖ, Gretė VELYKYTĖ.

5. Participation in Preparatory Tournaments

Players participated in numerous international and domestic tournaments. The main objectives were:

- Targeted preparation for championships
- Accumulation of ranking points for optimal seeding
- Testing new doubles combinations
- Gaining competitive experience
- Strengthening team cohesion

These tournaments formed essential bridges between training camps and major competitions.

6. Organisation of Training Camps

In line with the Strategic Plan, we organised 44 training days in 2025, including selection camps. Camps were planned every 4–6 weeks to ensure continuous development and optimal alignment with the tournament calendar. Each camp was conducted according to a pre-approved programme, and post-camp reports with individual recommendations were sent to athletes, personal coaches, clubs, and parents within one week. All materials were distributed in advance, maintaining the high level of transparency introduced in previous years.

7. National Team Coach Recruitment

In July 2025, we strengthened the coaching structure by hiring two full-time BWF Level 2 coaches:

- Povilas BARTUŠIS (BWF Level 2) — responsible for the U19 and Elite groups.
- Mantas MAULĖ (BWF Level 2) — responsible for the U17 and U15 groups.

Their inclusion significantly improved training quality, athlete communication, selection processes, camp organisation, and tournament logistics.

8. Coach Development

We actively supported coach development at the national level:

- During the U15/U17 selection camp, a short training session was organised for 10 club coaches: Valentinas BAGDANAVIČIUS, Povilas BARTUŠIS, Sergej LEONOVICH, Alena LEONOVICH, Alan PLAVIN, Vilmantas PRATUSEVIČIUS, Salvinija TARVYDAITĖ, Nitesh YADAV, Mantas MAULĖ, Benas VAŠKEVIČIUS.
- Coach Mantas MAULĖ began participating in the one-year Badminton Europe ADVANCE course.
- All national team camps remained open to club coaches wishing to expand their knowledge, ensuring continuous professional development.

9. Athletic Performance Monitoring — Movesense and VO2Max

Selected national team athletes (born 2010 and older) underwent VO2Max testing to establish aerobic thresholds and maximum oxygen uptake. In the second half of 2025, we initiated collaboration with DELTA SPORT INNOVATION — specialists in threshold and training load

monitoring. The second half of the year was dedicated to testing and implementing these tools so they can be fully utilised from 2026 onwards. The system allows monitoring of athletes both during national team camps and in their regular club training sessions.

10. International Collaboration and Participation in International Events

- TEAM Europe Programme (Badminton Europe) — two athletes, Dominik TANKEVIČ and Daniel LEONOVIC, were selected and participated in the first camp: 4–13 July 2025 (Vejen, Denmark). The programme is designed to prepare European young talents to compete with Asian players in the future.
- Badminton Europe Summer School (13–20 July 2025, Vejen, Denmark) — three Lithuanian players participated: Kasparas DRAUKSAS, Liepa MURASKAITĖ, Milanas KVIETKAUSKAS.
- International training camps abroad: Viltė PAULAUSKAITĖ participated in a High Performance camp organised by the PanAm Continental Confederation (22–29 September 2025, Guatemala City, Guatemala). Nojus TENIKAITIS and Rokas LESINSKAS participated in training camps in France and Germany.

Summary and Outlook

2025 was an eventful year in line with the LBF Strategic Plan. We successfully increased the number of training days, participated in key targeted competitions, and made significant progress in the 'Learning to Train' phase, enabling several athletes to transition into the 'Training to Train' and some into the 'Training to Compete' phase. While not all sporting targets were achieved, a consistent improvement in players' ranking positions was observed, confirming that the chosen development pathway is delivering results and laying the foundation for the future.

The continued support of international expert Martijn van Dooremalen, the professionalisation of coaching, the introduction of scientific monitoring tools, greater transparency in selection, and increased international participation have created a solid foundation for further growth in 2026.

I am fully committed to continuing this work and ensuring that every national team member receives the highest quality support on the path to success at European Championships and Olympic qualification.

I am ready to discuss this report in detail at the next Board meeting and to present specific priorities and resource needs for the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Technical Director

Lithuanian Badminton Federation

Wojciech Szkudlarczyk