Björn Borg

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From Head to Toe: Sports Apparel and Footwear Fuel Growth

Björn Borg ("Björn Borg", "the Company" or "the Group") is a well-established and renowned company with a rich history spanning decades, earning the place as a favored brand among a broad consumer base. Nevertheless, the predominant association of Björn Borg with underwear presents a compelling challenge: to transition consumer perception from an underwear brand to a sports fashion brand. This strategic shift, central to the Company's vision since 2014, has already yielded noteworthy progress, as amplified marketing investments and a strengthened brand have driven strong growth in Sports Apparel and Footwear. Analyst Group estimates an attractive growth trajectory on the horizon, supporting a gradual improvement in margins. The forecasted EBIT for 2025 stands at SEK 124m (131), and by applying a forward EV/EBIT multiple of 12.0x (12.0), this presents a potential value of SEK 58.4 (61.3) per share in a Base scenario.

Maintains Strong Growth Trajectory

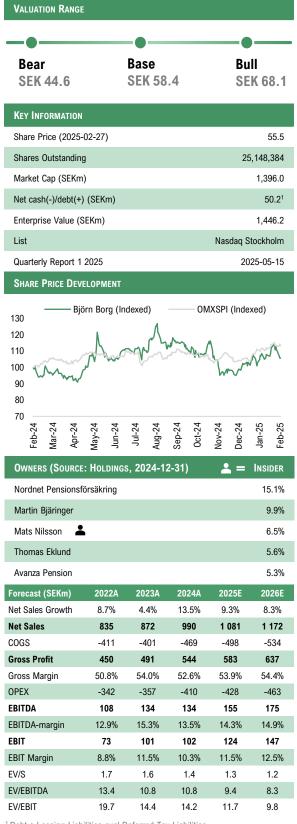
Net sales amounted to SEK 234.6m (197.6) during Q4-24, reflecting an 18.7% Y-Y growth (18.6% excl. FX). The outcome surpassed our estimate of SEK 228m by 2.9%, primarily driven by stronger-than-expected momentum in Footwear and Sports Apparel, which grew by 57% and 44%, respectively. Performance was strong across all focus categories, with Underwear expanding by 14% Y-Y, while Bags surged by 30%. From a channel perspective, Own-Ecom grew by 10%, while wholesale exhibited a 28% Y-Y growth, underscoring solid traction in both direct and indirect sales channels. Geographically, the strategic key market, Germany, recorded 13% Y-Y growth, while Sweden, stood out with a 43% increase. This quarter reaffirms Björn Borg's consistent execution within the focus areas, reinforcing the positive growth trajectory observed in recent quarters, which we see as a validation that the strategic initiatives are translating into tangible results.

Short-Term Margin Headwinds from Strategic Investments

The EBIT during the fourth quarter reached SEK 16.8m (20.2), corresponding to an EBIT margin of 7.2% (10.2). When adjusting for FX- effects, EBIT stood at SEK 17.2m (17.6). Analyst Group had estimated an EBIT of SEK 20.9m, with the deviation largely attributed to one-off costs related to the integration of the Footwear business, alongside elevated marketing investments aimed at reinforcing brand positioning and long-term growth. Although these factors have temporarily pressured margins, the underlying strategic logic remains intact. Footwear is poised to be a key contributor to margin expansion in the coming years. Consequently, Analyst Group does not view the temporary compression of operating margins as alarming. With a solid foundation for future growth and continued brand-enhancing marketing investments, Björn Borg is laying the groundwork for sustained and profitable growth in the coming years.

Revised Margin Outlook Reflected in the Valuation

In response to the report, Analyst Group has adjusted the top-line estimates, forecasting slightly stronger sales growth ahead. However, we expect the headwinds impacting the operating margin to persist in the short term, resulting in softer margin development. By applying a forward EV/EBIT multiple of 12.0x to the estimated EBIT of 124m for 2025E, a potential value of SEK 58.4 (61.3) per share is derived in a Base scenario.



¹ Debt + Leasing Liabilities excl Deferred Tax Liabilities.

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Other

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