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UNION INTERNATIONALE  
DE PENTATHLON MODERNE



World Pentathlon  
Newsletter

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## PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES UPDATE



Valentin Belaud and Elodie Clouvel of France can expect to compete in a new Modern Pentathlon format at their home Olympic Games after the IOC communicated its support for the format approved in October 2020 by the UIPM Executive Board. A task force has now been appointed - See Pages 2-4



# Paris 2024 Olympic Games update

## Modern Pentathlon: new Olympic format



The groundbreaking new Modern Pentathlon format for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games includes a 90-minute showpiece with all five disciplines

### UIPM welcomes IOC support for new Modern Pentathlon format

UIPM has received positive communication from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) around the new Modern Pentathlon format created for the Olympic Summer Games Paris 2024.

Viewers and spectators watching the Olympic Games' most demanding sport in 2024 can expect to see a compelling showpiece featuring all five disciplines in 90 minutes. The new format features an elimination system that results in only 12 athletes taking part in each final.

The bold changes to the Olympic product have been supported by the IOC, whose Executive Board met today to finalise the Paris 2024 programme,

based on recommendations from the IOC Programme Commission.

UIPM welcomes the support received and also acknowledges the reasons why its Mixed Relay proposal – along with all applications for additional medal events by other International Federations – was not approved for Paris 2024.

The changes to Modern Pentathlon are designed to transform the profile and popularity of a sport that has been a constant feature of the world's biggest sporting event since it was introduced by Baron Pierre de Coubertin – founder of the Modern Olympic Games – in Stockholm in 1912.

The latest changes to one of the quintessential Olympic sports follow other transformative innovations since

Atlanta 1996 – the move away from a five-day format, the introduction of laser technology and combined running and shooting, the arrival of the Fencing Bonus Round and the establishment of an all-in-one Pentathlon Arena, which will feature at the Olympic Games for the first time in Tokyo (JPN) in 2021.

The vision for 2024 is designed to make Modern Pentathlon shorter, faster, more connected and compact and easier to understand for all audiences.

The format was approved by the UIPM Executive Board in October after test events in Budapest (HUN) and Cairo (EGY) in September that followed recommendations made by a working group set up by UIPM in 2019.

A series of stakeholder communications

sessions designed to increase understanding of the changes among the global UIPM Sports community took place online in November. A number of athletes spoke out in support of the format ahead of today's decision.

As a sustainable and cost-effective model for the future of Modern Pentathlon within the Olympic Games, the proposal is also compatible with the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020 and New Norm reforms.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "We are proud of the dynamic changes made to the Modern Pentathlon in recent decades and we are very pleased that the IOC has recognised our commitment to innovation by supporting this ambitious vision for Paris 2024.

"Today marks an exciting landmark in

the history of our sport and this is a day for our global Modern Pentathlon community to celebrate together after a difficult year. Our beloved sport is one step closer to securing its future at the Olympic Games!

"The positive communication received about the new Modern Pentathlon format is a tribute to the members of the UIPM working group who came up with the vision and the UIPM staff who worked so hard to turn the dream into a reality in difficult conditions this year.

"We are looking forward to working very closely with colleagues from the IOC, Paris 2024 and Olympic Broadcasting Services to finalise plans for the historic Olympic Summer Games taking place in the magical city of Paris for the first time in 100 years.

"Of course we are all disappointed that our Modern Pentathlon Mixed Relay

will not be a part of the 2024 Games as a third medal event. We have worked very hard on our Mixed Relay and it has been a popular feature of all three Youth Olympic Games to date.

"We appreciate that all International Federations have been unsuccessful in their applications for additional medal events for Paris 2024. This setback only sharpens our resolve to continue innovating and reshaping Modern Pentathlon for future generations.

"The sport created by Baron Pierre de Coubertin continues to represent the most complete examination of any athlete competing in the Olympic Games, while offering spectators more excitement and a better showcase for each of the Pentathlon disciplines.

"Our new Modern Pentathlon format is strongly aligned to these two principles. It will dramatically improve



Elodie Clouvel and Marie Oteiza of France will be competing on home soil if they qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games



the experience of viewers and spectators while retaining the essence of the sport.

"I guarantee all audiences that they will see a wonderful sporting spectacle when they watch the Modern Pentathlon at Tokyo 2020 in 2021 – and an even better showcase in Paris three years later."

#### UIPM appoints 12-strong taskforce to finalise new format

The UIPM President, Dr Klaus Schormann, has appointed a 12-strong taskforce to finalise the new Modern Pentathlon format designed for the Olympic Summer Games Paris 2024.

The taskforce, led by President Dr Schormann, will be charged with finalising the rules of the format based on evaluation and testing in 2021 to follow the testing that took place in 2020.

The proposed rules will then be presented to the UIPM 2021 Congress in Xiamen (CHN).

Representing the UIPM Executive Board on the taskforce will be two Members who also represent France as Paris 2024 National Federation host – Vice-President Joel Bouzou OLY and Christian Roudaut, Chair of the UIPM Coaches Committee.

The EB is also represented by Secretary General Shiny Fang, Athletes Committee Chair Aya Medany OLY and Janusz Peciak OLY, Chair of the UIPM Technical Committee and EB Member for Sport.

The National Federation community is also represented by Dominic Mahony OLY (Pentathlon GB) and Anna Bajan (Polish Modern Pentathlon Association President), representing the host NF of the 2023 European Games in Krakow-Malopolska (POL).



*The Mixed Relay is a symbol of the gender equality that exists in the UIPM Sports movement*

The UIPM Medical Committee is represented by Dr Douglass Stull (USA), while three UIPM staff members complete the taskforce – Operations Director Dr Alexandre Franca, Competition Manager Tamas Varga and Media Operations Manager Florent Boas.

President Dr Schormann said: "On behalf of the UIPM Executive Board I am delighted to announce the composition of a taskforce to finalise the new Modern Pentathlon format for the Olympic Summer Games Paris 2024.

"The 12 people appointed have the interests of Modern Pentathlon at heart. They will be responsible for ensuring that the new format to be presented

at UIPM 2021 Congress will enable our historic Olympic sport to have the best possible presentation at Paris 2024 based on testing, evaluation and feedback from our global community."

UIPM Vice-President Joel Bouzou OLY said: "Members of the global UIPM community have demonstrated many times over the years that they are open to adaptation and change.

"We now have an opportunity through the new format proposed for the Paris 2024 to begin an exciting new chapter for Modern Pentathlon and secure the future of the sport in the Olympic Games. I look forward to working with the taskforce to put the finishing touches to the new format."

## COVID-19 Coronavirus update

#### UIPM issues guidelines designed to prevent infection at 2021 events

UIPM's global competition circuit is scheduled to resume in February 2021 and the governing body has created a set of comprehensive guidelines designed to support local organizers.

The COVID-19 UIPM Event Organizers Infection Prevention Guidelines have been developed by the UIPM Medical Committee in conjunction with UIPM staff and National Federation colleagues preparing to deliver competitions as safely and securely as possible.

Dr Natalja Ofitserova, Chair of the UIPM Medical Committee, said: "With the health and safety of athletes being one of the key principles in the delivery of the Olympic Games, the UIPM Medical Committee has developed the UIPM Event Organizers COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for implementation in the 2021 season.

"The COVID-19 counter-measures necessary to protect the health of all UIPM competition participants have been developed and set out in the Guidelines after careful study of World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations, ongoing review of global best practice and adaptation to the specific characteristics of Modern Pentathlon.

"The UIPM Medical Committee will appreciate and support the need to be flexible in all areas of requirements and operational interactions in order to ensure that UIPM events are safe for everyone and successfully take place in the difficult conditions of a pandemic." The Guidelines are designed to complement the information provided



*COVID-19 protocol in place during the 2020 European U24 Championships in Drzonkow (POL)*

to six host nations during the Event Organisers Workshop in November.

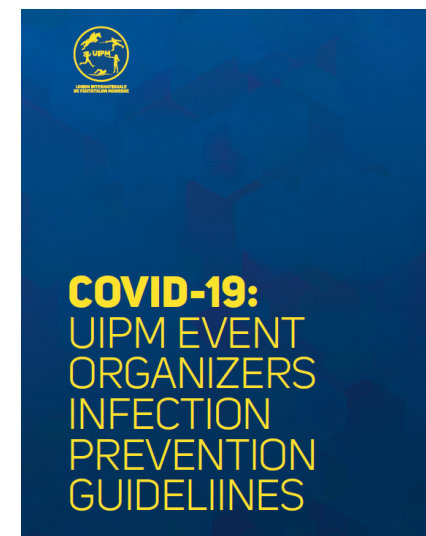
The first competition of the 2021 season will be the UIPM Junior World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) from February 7-14.

#### UIPM Anti-Doping Rules updated as WADA issues clarification on COVID-19 vaccines

The UIPM Executive Board has approved updates to the UIPM Anti-Doping rules to comply with the 2021 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code.

Dr Natalja Ofitserova, Chair of the UIPM Medical Committee, said: "The UIPM community has a clear and united commitment to promoting clean sport and protecting clean athletes.

"The seamless approval of the changes to UIPM Anti-Doping Rules to comply with the 2021 WADA Code underlines and reinforces this commitment.



Athletes, coaches and team managers can now plan ahead with confidence for the 2021 season knowing that clear rules are in place."

The news follows the welcome move by WADA on December 11 to clarify its position regarding the status of COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccines relative to its List of Prohibited Substances and Methods. Visit [wada-ama.org](https://wada-ama.org) for more information.



ROAD TO TOKYO

Athlete interviews



Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU) is a high-class Laser Runner who already competed at one Olympic Games in London (GBR) in 2012

Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU) prepares for her second coming

It was no disgrace for a 19-year-old athlete from Lithuania to play second fiddle to her team-mate in her first Olympic Games.

In fact, Gintare Venckauskaite achieved a remarkable 12th place in the London 2012 Games, and it was only because Laura Asadauskaite (LTU) won gold that her feat has been easy to overlook.

Of course, there is also the fact that

Venckauskaite (LTU) has achieved many exceptional results in her career since then.

As a strong junior career was coming to an end, she started to make an impact at senior level, finishing 4th at UIPM 2015 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo and the UIPM 2016 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Sarasota (USA).

Still, major medals continued to elude Venckauskaite (LTU) – another 4th place in the 2016 European Championships followed – until she

became a mother. Having missed the 2017 season, she returned in 2018 in fantastic shape and the reward came at the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Astana (KAZ).

In the Women’s Final she delivered an exceptional Laser Run (more than 30sec faster than anyone else in the field) to collect a hard-earned bronze medal.

Remarkably, another 4th place in the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final followed in 2019 in Tokyo (JPN), but

she held her form for when it mattered most to secure a quota place for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the European Championships in Bath (GBR).

In the latest Road to Tokyo interview, the 28-year-old savours the prospect of a second appearance at the world’s biggest sporting event.

**Q: How did it feel in 2019 when you earned a qualification place for the Tokyo Olympics at the European Championships?**

A: The plan was to win a ticket at the European Championships, so the result was not unexpected. However, I was still both surprised and happy.

**Q: Did you watch the last Olympic Games (Rio 2016)? What are your memories?**

A: Yes, I watched. It was my dream to participate in a second Olympics. However, I knew full well that I would come back after giving birth and do my best to be even stronger.

**Q: You finished 12th at the London 2012 Olympic Games. What are your memories of that competition?**

A: Memories are very vague ... I only remember certain moments of a few seconds from each discipline. I don’t remember the Swimming, the look of the pool or how I swam ... but I remember the fans, who were so loud from the tribune that we couldn’t talk to Laura before the Laser Run started. Sounds weird, but it feels like I was in a dream...

**Q: What will it mean to you to be selected to compete for Lithuania at Tokyo 2020 (in 2021)?**

A: That will mean I did everything I had planned.

**Q: What do you think about the Olympics being postponed until 2021?**

A: I think this is a great opportunity to reflect on both the wrong and the

ROAD TO TOKYO: OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

Women	Men
 <b>Haydy Morsy</b> (EGY)	 <b>Sherif Nazeir</b> (EGY)
 <b>Laura Asadauskaite</b> (LTU)	 <b>Joseph Choong</b> (GBR)
 <b>Mariana Arceo</b> (MEX)	 <b>Charles Fernandez</b> (GUA)
 <b>Samantha Schultz</b> (USA)	 <b>Esteban Bustos</b> (CHI)
 <b>Leidis Laura Moya</b> (CUB)	 <b>Sergio Villamayor</b> (ARG)
 <b>Ieda Chaves</b> (BRA)	 <b>Lester Ders</b> (CUB)
 <b>Lourdes Cuaspud</b> (ECU)	 <b>Amro Elgeziry</b> (USA)
 <b>Kate French</b> (GBR)	 <b>James Cooke</b> (GBR)
 <b>Iryna Prasiantsova</b> (BLR)	 <b>Valentin Prades</b> (FRA)
 <b>Annika Schleu</b> (GER)	 <b>Martin Vlach</b> (CZE)
 <b>Natalya Coyle</b> (IRL)	 <b>Lukasz Gutkowski</b> (POL)
 <b>Gintare Venckauskaite</b> (LTU)	 <b>Bence Demeter</b> (HUN)
 <b>Marie Oteiza</b> (FRA)	 <b>Justinas Kinderis</b> (LTU)
 <b>Adelina Ibattulina</b> (RUS)	 <b>Alexander Lifanov</b> (RUS)
 <b>Sarolta Kovacs</b> (HUN)	 <b>Patrick Dogue</b> (GER)
 <b>Volha Silkina</b> (BLR)	 <b>Valentin Belaud</b> (FRA)
 <b>Elena Micheli</b> (ITA)	 <b>Woongtae Jun</b> (KOR)
 <b>Sehee Kim</b> (KOR)	 <b>Jihun Lee</b> (KOR)
 <b>Natsumi Takamiya</b> (JPN)	 <b>Shuai Luo</b> (CHN)
 <b>Alise Fakhrutdinova</b> (UZB)	 <b>Pavel Ilyashenko</b> (KAZ)
 <b>Mingyu Zhang</b> (CHN)	 <b>Shohei Iwamoto</b> (JPN)
 <b>Elena Potapenko</b> (KAZ)	 <b>Alexander Savkin</b> (UZB)
 <b>Marina Carrier</b> (AUS)	 <b>Edward Fernon</b> (AUS)

- All athletes listed have secured a quota place for their country and their participation is subject to selection by their National Olympic Committee
- All quota places listed will be protected in the revised Tokyo 2020 qualification process



right ways to achieve the goal. It's also a great time to work more with our thoughts, to be with ourselves and the family we spend little time with. There is no such thing as a bad thing that does no good.

**Q: How have you been keeping up your training, and your mental health, during the Coronavirus crisis?**

A: We didn't have the opportunity to swim in the pool during the first wave, so little has changed. There was little live communication, but we are perfectly adapted to the current conditions.

**Q: What has been the most challenging part?**

A: It was hard to exercise alone.



Venckauskaite (LTU) poses for the cameras at the Swimming pool and (below) in action during the Fencing Bonus Round at the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico City (MEX)



Venckauskaite (LTU) shows how much she enjoys the Riding discipline (above) and (right) joins the podium at UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Final with gold medallist Chloe Esposito (AUS) and silver medallist Sarolta Kovacs (HUN)

**Q: And what positive things have you seen?**

A: I spent more time with my family. I also had the opportunity to read more books, do the work I planned to do after the Olympics.

**Q: When, and why, did you take up the Modern Pentathlon?**

A: I attended swimming workouts but couldn't fully realise my potential. In 2007 after finishing my Swimming career, I agreed to participate in the Lithuanian Modern Pentathlon competition. I was very scared of the running, but after the first successful race I agreed to come to a few more workouts. That's how I stayed in this sport!

**Q: What motivates you in training?**



Venckauskaite (LTU) with her fellow medallists from the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Astana (KAZ) - silver medallist Sarolta Kovacs (HUN) and champion Chloe Esposito (AUS)



A: At this point, when we don't have competitions, I set myself daily or weekly goals. This makes it easier to motivate myself.

**Q: Describe yourself as an athlete in three words.**

A: Responsible, strong, endurance!

**Q: Who are your role models in sport, and in life?**

A: In sports my idol is the figure skater Alina Zagitova. In life – my family and friends!

**Q: What is your ultimate ambition in Modern Pentathlon?**

A: Become the best version of yourself!

**Sergio Villamayor (ARG) finds comfort in family ahead of Olympic debut**

Argentina was not represented in Modern Pentathlon at any Olympic Games between 1964 and 2012.

Four years ago in Rio (BRA), husband and wife Emanuel Zapata and Iryna Khokhlova brought the anomaly to an end and now, in Tokyo (JPN) in 2021, Argentina will again be represented. Sergio Villamayor (ARG) secured a qualification place in 2019 when he won men's individual bronze at the Pan American Games in Lima (PER).

Since then, the tall pentathlete has had more time than he anticipated to prepare for his Olympic debut because of the postponement of Tokyo 2020.

In the latest Road to Tokyo interview, Villamayor (ARG) describes his emotions during this unprecedented time...

**Q: How did it feel in 2019 when you won bronze at the Pan American Games and earned a qualification place for the Tokyo Olympics?**

A: It was a very special feeling to qualify for the Games since I had worked very hard for many years. It gave me more tranquility and will allow me to focus



Sergio Villamayor (ARG) is happy and excited to be following in the footsteps of compatriot Emanuel Zapata (ARG) by competing in the Olympic Games

on the preparation for the Games to achieve the best results possible.

**Q: Did you watch the last Olympic Games (Rio 2016)? What are your memories?**

A: Yes, of course, I like to watch all kinds of sports. Obviously, I was not going to miss watching the Games and even less Pentathlon as it was 56 years since Argentina had a representative in the Games (my friend and his wife). It was also very exciting to see the battle for bronze between the men and that at the end Ismael Hernández got it!

**Q: What will it mean to you to be selected to compete for Argentina at Tokyo 2020 (in 2021)?**

A: It's a big responsibility and it fills me with pride to be part of the Argentinean delegation.

**Q: In what ways has Modern Pentathlon in Argentina benefited from the Youth Olympic Games taking place in Buenos Aires in 2018?**

A: Modern Pentathlon grew up from 2000 onwards thanks to the huge work of Jorge Salas and Guillermo Filipi,



Villamayor (ARG) takes aim during the UIPM Champion of Champions in Doha (QAT)

which they are still doing now, and we benefited a lot from the YOGs.

The same goes for other individual sports, as we have a culture of team sports mostly (football, basketball, volleyball, hockey and rugby).

**Q: What do you think about the**

**Olympics being postponed until 2021?**

A: I don't think there was any alternative, and I think that as an athlete I only have to be ready when the day comes for me to compete. To be already qualified gives me a lot of tranquillity in that matter.



Villamayor (ARG) in action against a British opponent during the Fencing Bonus Round





Left to right: Pan American Games 2019 silver medallist Esteban Bustos (CHI), champion Charles Fernandez (GUA) and bronze medallist Villamayor (ARG)

**Q: How have you been keeping up your training and your mental health during the Coronavirus crisis?**

A: Thanks to the Honvéd Club and the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Federation, I have been able to keep up with my training while respecting the health protocols. Personally, it helped me to change how I look at things and value to things which are really important: time with my family or to drink maté [a South American hot beverage] with friends, for instance.

**Q: What has been the most challenging part?**

A: Personally, it was really good to be able to spend time with my daughter, for example, trying to always find the positive side of things.

Things have been a little complicated for me because of the crisis we face in Argentina and I couldn't manage my

money because of restrictions which we face, although this was already the case before the pandemic and these are political matters which are out of my hands!

**Q: And what positive things have you seen?**

A: Spending time with my family. It's an important thing that me and my loved ones are healthy, but it's also important to enjoy the time with them. My daughter reminds me about this every day as she grows older: time goes by and does not come back!

**Q: When, and why, did you take up the Modern Pentathlon?**

A: I got to know this wonderful sport when I was 18 years old, this was my age when I started practising it. I knew it while studying in the military academy. But they say that it's never too late to start something new and I

am happy to now be part of the great Modern Pentathlon family.

**Q: What motivates you in training?**

A: This goes for all the things I undertake: to do it always the best way possible and to be a better person each day.

**Q: Describe yourself as an athlete in three words.**

A: Responsible, persevering and tenacious.

**Q: Who are your role models in sport, and in life?**

A: In sport: the footballer Lionel Messi. In life: my parents.

**Q: What is your ultimate ambition in Modern Pentathlon?**

A: That one day it will be possible to compete for clubs internationally, as for most sports.

# BOUNCING BACK IN 2021!

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03 04, 05  
06 09  
01, 02

100% EXCITEMENT ...  
100% COMPLETE SPORT...  
THIS IS **MODERN PENTATHLON**

01	08.02. - 14.02.	UIPM 2021 Pentathlon Junior World Championships	Alexandria, EGY
02	15.02. - 21.02.	UIPM 2021 Pentathlon Youth World Championships (U19/U17)	Alexandria, EGY
03	24.03. - 28.03.	UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Budapest	Budapest, HUN
04	07.04. - 11.04.	UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia I	Sofia, BUL
05	15.04. - 18.04.	UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia II	Sofia, BUL
06	13.05. - 16.05.	UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final	Seoul, KOR
07	07.06. - 13.06.	UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Championships	Minsk, BLR
08	07.06. - 13.06.	UIPM 2021 Laser Run World Championships	Minsk, BLR
09	05.08. - 07.08.	Games of the XXXII Olympiad	Tokyo, JPN
10	26.08. - 29.08.	UIPM 2021 Biathlon/Triathlon World Championships	Weiden, GER

UIPM has governed the core Olympic sport of Modern Pentathlon since its formation in 1948. Today it oversees a range of multi-discipline sports (Tetathlon, Triathlon, Biathlon, Laser Run and World Schools Biathlon) which form a development pyramid with Modern Pentathlon at the top.

Find out more info about Modern Pentathlon and other UIPM multi-discipline sports, Broadcast our World Cups and World Championships, Email us at [media@pentathlon.org](mailto:media@pentathlon.org)





# LASER RUN SPOTLIGHT

A global catalyst for  
the return of sport



Clockwise from above: Action from Laser Run competitions held in 2020 in Kiev (UKR), Nuremberg (GER), Novosibirsk (RUS) and Vitebsk (BLR)

*The final instalment of a series looking at the growth of UIPM's most popular development sport since its launch in 2015.*

The unexpected disruptions of 2020 may have brought sport to a standstill for much of the year, but Laser Run has been a spectacular catalyst for the global growth of the UIPM Sports movement. So it was inevitable that when COVID-19 Coronavirus restrictions began to ease in some countries, the popular mass-participation sport was the first to resume.

From Colombo to Caracas to Cape Town, sporting communities right across the planet have energetically embraced the simple plug-and-play format that enables Laser Run to support development.

A wide range of activities signalled the post-COVID revival of Laser Run in numerous countries and continents from August to December, restoring momentum to the growth of the sport after the cancellation of so many instalments of UIPM's Global Laser Run City Tour and Biathle-Triathle National Tour.

On August 1, **Germany** became one of the first countries to organise a Laser Run competition, a two-day national championships in Nuremberg – the first of many events arranged by the German Modern Pentathlon Federation (DVMF).

On August 27, **Uzbekistan** arranged a competition in the capital city of Tashkent followed by a second event in Andizhan on October 3. Respecting the limitations imposed by the pandemic, the number of participants was relatively low with 30 people in the first and 45 in the second.

Modern Pentathlon Federation of Uzbekistan President Bakhromjon Gaziev and Secretary General Kseniya Gulyamova showed leadership by taking part in the competition in Tashkent (UZB).

September was the month when the Laser Run scene really kicked back into gear. On the first weekend of the month, **Lithuania** held a national run/shoot competition in Vingis Park, Vilnius – venue of the UIPM 2017 Pentathlon World Cup Final. It was predominantly a youth competition and London 2012 Olympic champion Laura Asadasukaite's daughter won gold medal in her age group.

**Ukraine** held a two-day 'Dinamo Laser Run' competition in the capital, Kiev. Two hundred athletes from Kiev, Zhitomir and Lviv from youth sport schools and seniors amateurs participated at the Dinamo equestrian complex. In the background, an Olympic lesson was delivered to young athletes by Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Pavlo Tymoshchenko and European and World Championship medallist Dmytro Kirpuliansky.

Some countries took a regional approach due to travel restrictions – and one of them was **Russia**. On September 20, more than 120 athletes across nine age groups, including top local pentathletes, took part in the regional championships of Novosibirsk at the Sibselmash Stadium.

On the final weekend of the month, **Belarus** held an Open National Laser Run in Vitebsk, with 160 athletes from the Vitebsk region and other corners of Belarus participating in Laser Run at the Summer Amphitheatre cultural and sport complex.

**Hungary** arranged a national event in Szekesfehervar and **Turkey** organised a special celebration of Laser Run during the European Week of Sport in Istanbul (TUR).







Top to bottom: The race is on for young Laser Run competitors in Tashkent (UZB), laser shooting in France and a group of senior athletes in Waikato (NZL)

In October, **France** continued to arrange Laser Run events across the country as part of a schedule lasting from September to November.

Later in the month it was **Egypt's** turn as athletes gathered in Alexandria, which will be the venue for the UIPM Junior and Youth World Championships in early 2021.

At different times in the year there were time trials and races for various age groups in both **Australia** and **New Zealand**, where local organisers even arranged Para Laser Run activities.

And in the **USA**, Laser Run competitions continued right into December thanks to the Wolfpack Pentathlon Club, whose virtual Laser Run event sees athletes compete one by one, reducing risk of COVID-19 infection. Fifteen participants have submitted results with many new meet records being established.

This innovation is in common with many organisers around the world who showed versatility and initiative throughout 2020 to keep the Laser Run community connected and motivated.



## News from around the world



### UIPM Sports athletes shine at Virtual Youth Festival

Eight youth athletes from the UIPM Sports movement are celebrating after winning medals in the successful 1st Virtual Youth Festival, which culminated in a gala ceremony broadcast from Bangkok (THA) on December 20.

The VYF was arranged by United

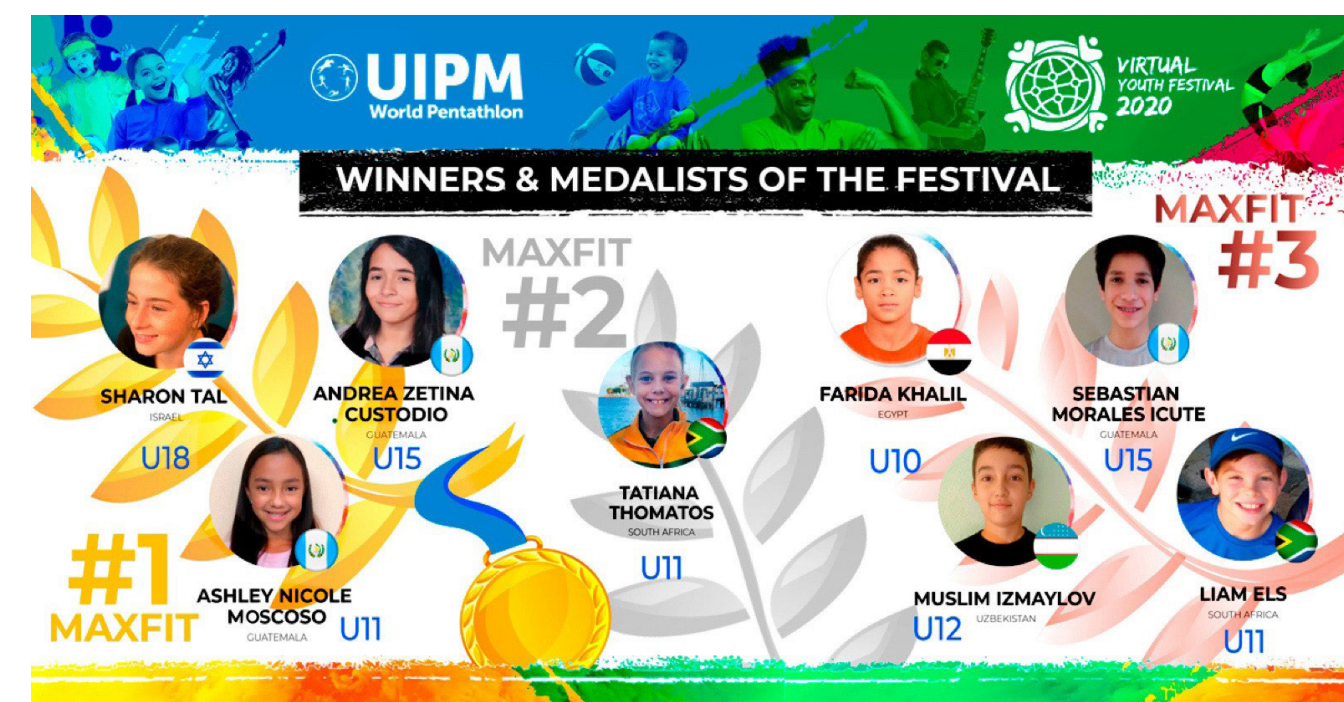
Through Sports (UTS) with the patronage of some of the world's biggest sports organisations, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Special Olympics and GAISF.

The Festival brought more than 60 organisations together to promote inclusion, health, equality, non-discrimination and peace.

Three gold medallists came out on top in their Max Fit categories – Guatemala duo Andrea Custodio (U15) and Ashley Mascoso (U11) and Sharon Tal of Egypt (U18).

Tatiana Thomatos of South Africa won silver in the U11 category, while Farida Khalil (EGY) took the tally of female medallists to five with her U10 bronze.

Three male athletes also won bronze –





Sebastian Morales (GUA; U15), Muslim Izmaylov of Uzbekistan (U12) and Liam Els (RSA; U11).

Two female youth athletes – 11-year-old Kyra Seow of Singapore and 18-year-old Mariam Amer (EGY) – were selected by UIPM to be ambassadors for the Festival, engaging peers around the world.

There were more than 100 Youth Ambassadors in total and Kyra Seow (SGP) was one of four awarded a special medal.

A VYF spokesperson said: "Kyra participated in all workshops and educational panels, she has promoted all possible content in social media and on top of that, we love her spirit and her attitude."

Last but not least, two certified UIPM Judges – Agnese Tomassi of France and Isamu Nogami of Japan – took part in the Finals on November 20-22 as technical officials.

UIPM Executive Board Member for Development, Viacheslav Malishev, said: "After the success of UIPM online competitions #LaserHomeRun and #LaserAllStars earlier in 2020, it was wonderful to see so many of our youth athletes taking part in another successful virtual initiative.

"The Virtual Youth Festival provided another way for our multi-sports community to come together online and find ways to compete during the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic. I congratulate all of the athletes, ambassadors and judges who represented UIPM in this unique event and congratulations to UTS on their initiative."

#### Georgia Hannam (GBR) ready to enrol as five athletes win World Academy of Sport scholarships

**F**ive athletes from four continents have been awarded financial support to study at the World Academy of Sports (WAoS).

Georgia Hannam of Great Britain will undertake the Post Graduate Certificate (PGCert) in International Sports Management after winning the single full scholarship provided through the memorandum of understanding between UIPM and WAoS.

Hannam (GBR) will be joined in the January 2021 intake by fellow scholarship recipients Said Sayed of Afghanistan, Dennis Smirnovs of Latvia, Naoki Tomomura of New Zealand and Timothy Stones of South Africa – each of whom will have half of their fees covered.

The course can be completed over a period of five years and the athletes were selected based on their background in UIPM Sports, studies they have already undertaken (or relevant work experience or professional references) and their level of English language proficiency.

The globally-recognised and industry-focused qualification has been collaboratively developed by the



Georgia Hannam (GBR), on the left, will undertake a Post Graduate Certificate in Sports Management at the World Academy of Sports

University of London and WAoS and aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the latest sport management strategies and develop the skills needed for the professional management of organisations and projects within the dynamic sport industry.

Junior athlete Hannam (GBR), 22, told Pentathlon GB: "I am delighted to have been accepted onto the International Sports Management degree. I love sport, especially Modern Pentathlon, so having a degree which will enable me to have an active role in the management of all areas of the sport is an exciting prospect that I hope to achieve when moving into my professional career.

"I'm really looking forward to finding out more about what it takes to effectively manage an international sport and being able to appreciate in more depth how much time and commitment current staff of Pentathlon GB put into running the sport behind the scenes."

#### Ten coaches achieve Level 4 coaching qualification

**T**en coaches from six countries have scaled the 'Everest' peak of Modern Pentathlon coaching certification.

The highest qualification available to a Modern Pentathlon coach is the



Level 4 CCP graduate Walid Sayed (EGY) receives a trophy from UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann

Level 4 UIPM Coaches Certification Programme (CCP) – and this is the only qualification that has no expiry date.

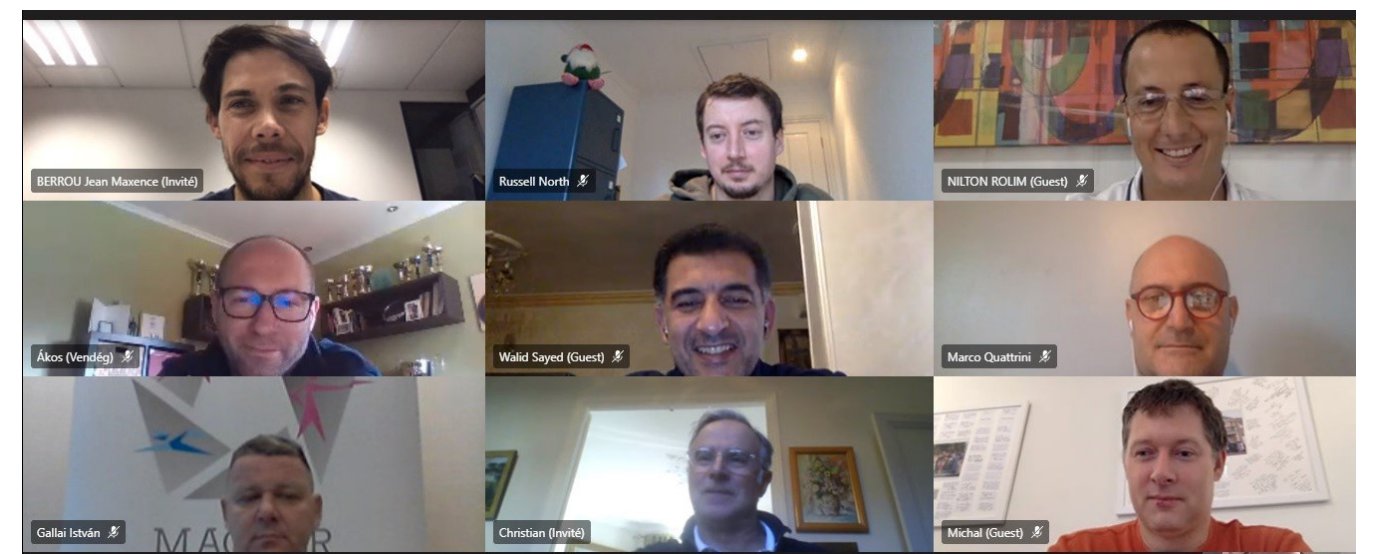
included the role of the coach in training, science, psychology, soft skills and ethics.

The certified coaches, each of whom occupies a senior coaching position in their nation, undertook the online course from December 3-6, becoming the second tranche to complete the syllabus. The first Level 4 CCP course took place in Paris (FRA) in 2018.

The students had to prepare in advance by completing an anti-doping e-learning module and writing an academic essay about one of a choice of proposed subjects.

The assessment comprised oral and written exams along with the essay, and the course included keynote speakers

Topics covered in the four-day seminar





from 11 countries – many of whom were already Level 4 CCP graduates.

The course was coordinated by Christian Roudaut, Chair of the UIPM Coaches Committee, and Alexandre Franca, UIPM Operations Director.

Christian Roudaut said: "I'm delighted that these 10 coaches have been able to achieve this Level 4 certification, especially in the wider context of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

"The students had talks about a wide range of subjects designed to broaden their knowledge of the role of the coach in Modern Pentathlon. We are very proud to have had another successful Level 4 course, this time with full online attendance."

#### European Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023: Debut for Modern Pentathlon confirmed

It's official – Modern Pentathlon will make its debut appearance at the European Games when the third instalment of the multi-sport carnival takes place in Poland in 2023.

In September 2020, the European Confederation of Modern Pentathlon (ECMP) and UIPM learned that their long-awaited dream to be included in the European Games had come true.

On December 17 the European Olympic Committees (EOC) named the first three sports – Modern Pentathlon, Canoe and Taekwondo – officially confirmed on the programme for the Games in Krakow-Malopolska (POL).

ECMP President Dmitry Svatkovsky said: "Now Modern Pentathlon is on the programme of the 3rd European Games which will take place in Poland in June 2023. Many circumstances preceded this victory.

"Experience was gained from failed attempts to be included in the previous two Games (Baku 2015 and Minsk



Left to right: ECMP Secretary General Tatiana Ardabieva, ECMP President Dmitry Svatkovsky and Polish Modern Pentathlon Association President Anna Bajan

2019), which made ECMP and UIPM concentrate on the right policy and action plan.

"There was the happy choice of EOC in the organizer of the Games – Poland, a country with highly developed Modern Pentathlon, plenty of famous pentathletes and a very active Modern Pentathlon Federation. This played a huge role in the result. In other words: the stars came together and it happened."

The Modern Pentathlon competition at Krakow 2023 will double as the European Championships and serve as a qualification competition for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. It will include the new Modern Pentathlon format designed for Paris 2024 and, because of this, the Polish Modern Pentathlon Association (PMPA) will be represented on the task force assembled to finalise

the format. President Svatkovsky added: "More news will follow in the course of our cooperation with EOC, which welcomed Modern Pentathlon in its community. But today the European Confederation expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who brought us to this victory.

"We thank UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann for his encouragement and trust in us, the former EOC President Janez Kocijancic, who passed away in June, for his invaluable advice, the President of the Polish Modern Pentathlon Association Ms Anna Bajan, without whom this event would not have happened, for her enormous impact in the inclusion of Modern Pentathlon in the European Games; and to all ECMP Executive Board members for their support in all our initiatives!"

## Inside UIPM: Secretary General Shiny Fang's message

UIPM 2020 #LASERALLSTARS U40 MEN			
1	EGY	1	ABDELRAHMAN MAHMOUD
2	SUI	3	ALEXANDRE DÄLLENBACH
3	MDA	2	VALENTIN SAMSONOV
4	MEX	4	RICARDO VERA

PENTATHLON.ORG

#### Online and offline, your commitment to innovation in adversity made me so proud in 2020

What a year it has been. So many highs and lows, so many challenges, so many uncertainties.

The only certainty, in fact, was the commitment demonstrated by our global community to keeping our sporting movement alive. And not just keeping the sport alive but making it stronger for tomorrow.

In 2021, we all hope to experience some normality again, but what if normal becomes something new?

In 2020 I was proud to see how the global UIPM Sports community adapted to the difficult circumstances, taking the opportunity to become trailblazers for a future that is already here!

In May we broke new ground with our first virtual competition, #LaserHomeRun; we introduced #LaserAllStars in September. Be assured, these are not gimmicks – virtual events could become a permanent



part of our competition calendar if the format is manageable. In future we could even have Pentathlon All Stars. We are also very close to launching our first UIPM E-sports product, which I am sure the many gamers in our community and in the wider world will love.

UIPM Sports will always be a movement defined by athletic achievement – staying true to the vision of Coubertin to create the ultimate athlete. But we also need to consider what that means in a 21st century context, always remaining relevant to the way young people engage online and how they see sport.

As we evolve our digital and virtual offerings, we invite everyone in the

global community to keep sending us ideas, feedback and suggestions. We had a great response to the call for 'Pentathlon Stories' late in 2020 – there are some amazing authors of all ages in our community! UIPM will be ready to join in all kinds of virtual Games and festivals. We are living in a real world, and we open our eyes to changes within that world whether online or offline.

As the first International Federation and still the only sport to use laser shooting in all real sport events, our athletes had already embraced technology and adapted themselves for environmentally friendly sport and a sustainable future. But we are living more and more in an online environment.

The pandemic accelerated the process of everything becoming inter-connected, giving our athletes the chance to use their sporting skill in laser shooting to demonstrate the spirit of sport in a virtual world! There were some really unforgettable moments this year, some light amid the darkness. And we owe it all to the people who demonstrated innovation in adversity.



## Inside UIPM: President's statement and activities

The UIPM President, Dr Klaus Schormann, has issued a statement reflecting on the impact of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic on the UIPM Sports movement in 2020.

Dear friends,

We are coming to the end of a year which has no comparison in our lifetimes.

The pandemic has created so many challenges for all parts of our global society and the sports industry has been heavily affected.

In our UIPM Sports movement, we have also seen the best of humanity in the way people have reacted.

Not only are we proud of the medical people and scientists in our community who have contributed to saving lives and leading us towards a safer future, underlining the commitment of our movement to a more peaceful world through sport. We have also seen innovation in the way leaders, organisers and coaches have created ways for athletes to continue training and competing.

A year of innovation has seen the foundation of new experiments that can become permanent features of our movement, enabling the diversity of our participation base to grow through virtual and Esports opportunities.

The year has also ended with good news for our beloved Olympic sport. After the IOC Executive Board meeting on December 7 we were delighted to receive a written communication from the IOC Director General about our proposed new Modern Pentathlon format for Paris 2024.

This confirmed that the IOC is



supportive of our vision for the future of Modern Pentathlon at the Olympic Games – and this is a moment for us to say congratulations and thanks to all members of our community!

This innovative format has been created by the New Pentathlon Working Group and refined with the expertise and input of so many people. In recent weeks we had video sessions with athletes, coaches, judges and National Federation representatives – it's very important that all stakeholders continue to

communicate openly and transparently through UIPM channels.

We know that the new format will bring fresh energy, sustainability and additional value to the Olympic Games and we highly appreciate the cooperation and collaboration which has enabled us to overcome so many challenges and shape our sport for a better future.

It is now clear for all to see that Modern Pentathlon is an Olympic heritage sport which never stops looking to embrace

modern innovations. It is our firm belief that Baron Pierre de Coubertin had this spirit and philosophy in mind when he created our beloved sport.

Under the leadership of the UIPM Executive Board and with all stakeholders working together in solidarity and unity, we believe we are on the right track. We will continue to work closely with the IOC and partners and will tirelessly combine our efforts to make the best of all opportunities.

In 2020 we have seen changes in our society, changes in our behaviour, changes in economics and politics and changes in sport.

One thing that will never change is the Olympic values.

With my best personal greetings,

**Dr Klaus Schormann**

UIPM President

### 07.12.2020: IOC Executive Board

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann had various telephone and video meetings with members of the UIPM Family on the day the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided the final programme for the Olympic Summer Games Paris 2024.

The IOC EB meeting was followed by a press conference given by the IOC President Dr Thomas Bach. UIPM also received positive communication from the IOC about the suitability of the new Modern Pentathlon format proposed for Paris 2024.

President Dr Schormann wrote to National Federations to add context and explain the outcome and made a statement in the official UIPM press release. He said: "We are proud of the dynamic changes made to the Modern Pentathlon in recent decades and we are very pleased that the IOC Executive

Board has recognised our commitment to innovation by approving this ambitious vision for Paris 2024.

"We appreciate that all International Federations have been unsuccessful in their applications for additional medal events for Paris 2024.

"This setback only sharpens our resolve to continue innovating and reshaping Modern Pentathlon for future generations."

### 08.12.2020: German Task Force for Major Sporting Events

Dr Schormann took part in a symposium between members of the German Task Force for Major Sporting Events – a group of experts from the Interior Ministry and German Olympic Sports Federations.

They discussed presentations for



IOC President Dr Thomas Bach addresses the media following the IOC Executive Board meeting on December 7





UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann during the German Task Force for Major Sporting Events meeting

new international events, covering strategies, stakeholders, solid economy, international competence, sustainability, marketing, promotion, sport enthusiasm, hospitality, fair play and tolerance.

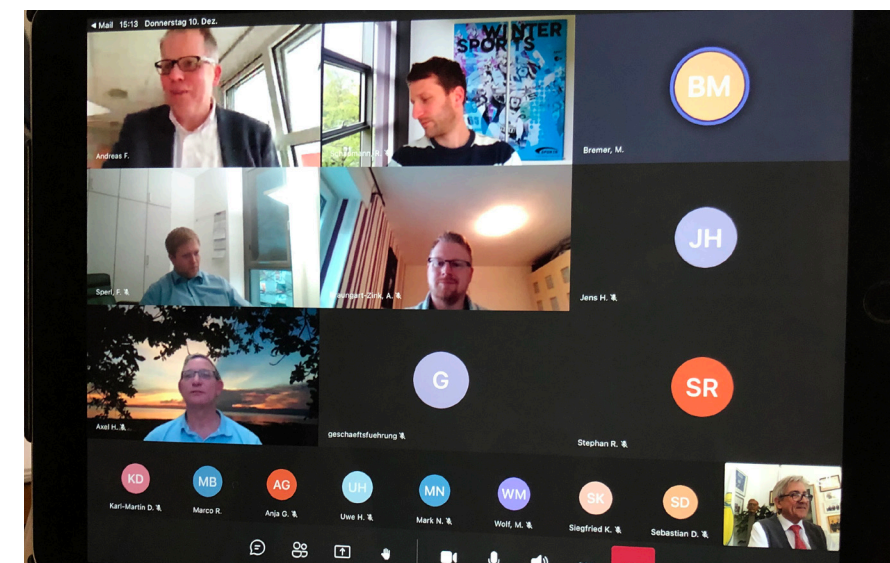
#### 10.12.2020: EB Meeting German Olympic Academy

In his capacity as Executive Board Member, Dr Schormann attended the EB Meeting and General Assembly of the German Olympic Academy (DOA), which heard reports of activities affected by the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic throughout 2020.

The Olympic Day in a digital format was a big success. All educational sessions linked to Olympism to the youth camp



UIPM President Dr Schormann participates in the DOA and (below) TV34 Council meetings



in Tokyo 2020 (now taking place in 2021) and the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 were arranged via video with high participation. Virtual competitions similar to UIPM activities in 2020 were discussed as new projects.

#### 10.12.2020: Meeting with TV34

The UIPM President and his fellow members of the German TV34 Television Council – colleagues and sport directors of TV networks ARD and ZDF and the Sport-A agency – presented the financial situation and distribution of money to the 34 German sport federations for 2020 and 2021 based on the 2020 competition calendar.

Acknowledging that many competitions could not take place because of the pandemic, a clear strategy for 2021 was discussed, with the strong hope that the rescheduled Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will take place in 2021.

#### 18.12.2020: Meeting with Volker Senssfelder

President Dr Schormann welcomed UIPM Financial Consultant, Volker Senssfelder (pictured on Page 26), to the President's Office in Darmstadt (GER) to discuss financial matters relating to the global business situation based on the pandemic in 2020 and the coming year 2021.

Depending on the possibilities of successful vaccines around the world, international business will be stabilised and provides UIPM with new challenges.

#### 21.12.2020: New Modern Pentathlon Format Task Force

President Dr Schormann took part in the first meeting of the New Modern Pentathlon Format Task Force, established to finalise the format for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.





President Dr. Schormann welcomes UIPM Financial Consultant Volker Senssfelder to the UIPM Presidential office in Darmstadt (GER)

The main changes are the competition order, the number of athletes, duration and schedule and breaks between each discipline, and the task force discussed the main points during this kick-off meeting.

The task force will meet again in February 2021 to finalize plans for test events which could happen as early as March or April, with dates and venues to be confirmed in the coming months.

The first meeting was very successful and gave members an overview about the new direction.



UIPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer working together in the Presidential office in Darmstadt (GER)

FROM THE  
ARCHIVES

Dream come true for  
Asadauskaite (LTU)



Laura Asadauskaite becomes Lithuania's first Olympic champion in Modern Pentathlon in London (GBR) in 2012



Baron Pierre de Coubertin

*"The Modern Pentathlon event would test a man's moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete."*

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 @国际现代五项联盟





UNION INTERNATIONALE  
DE PENTATHLON MODERNE

Season's  
greetings!



*“The most perfect sportsmen, therefore, are the pentathletes because in their bodies strength and speed are combined in perfect harmony.”*

*Aristotle*

Stay strong and healthy with a lot of optimism to overcome the difficulties of 2020 in the new year.  
Be a part of our UIPM oak tree, which stands up to the hardest storms and grows new shoots every year.  
The branches represent our National Federations and the leaves and fruits are our athletes.

**Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a happy new year!**

Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr.  
UIPM First Vice-President

Dr h.c. Klaus Schormann  
President

Shiny Fang  
Secretary General

