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UNION INTERNATIONALE
DE PENTATHLON MODERNE



World Pentathlon
Newsletter

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UIPM 2020 #LASERALLSTARS



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

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Three participants in one household in Egypt prove that #LaserAllStars is a family affair as they celebrate their medals in the inaugural Finals, keeping UIPM TV commentator James Tzanoudakis and competition judge Ana Ruth Orellana on their toes as audiences tuned in from around the world



COVID-19 Coronavirus update



Under 13 athletes in Uzbekistan pose with their certificates and medals on the podium after a Laser Run competition in the capital city, Tashkent

National Federations adapt to 'new normal' as competitions resume

Starved of global competitions for most of 2020 by the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, National Modern Pentathlon Federations have been carefully managing a return to sport in recent months.

In the UIPM Newsletter (September 2020 edition) we brought you news of a four-nation competition in Poland and a flurry of development activities in New Zealand including opportunities for UIPM Para Sports athletes.

Meanwhile, organisers in many other countries have been working tirelessly to provide domestic competitions and training for athletes at all levels of the UIPM Sports Pyramid, while abiding by local health and safety guidelines designed to limit the spread of the virus. In this article we provide updates

from seven National Federations across three continents.

AUSTRIA

In late July, a revival took place in Austria as two national competitions were held at the Kolland Topsport club in Gaal. The Austrian Biathlon Championship came first on July 25, followed by the Austrian Biathlon Championship on July 26. An NF spokesperson said: "All athletes looked forward to the first competition of the year and were there with full commitment."

BANGLADESH

When the Government gave the green light for limited sports training to resume from July 15, the Bangladesh

NF reacted quickly and resumed Laser Run and Fencing training every Friday starting on July 16. Nineteen athletes in the Under 14, Under 18 and Senior (20+) age groups are training under the supervision of SM Zahangir Alam Rony (Laser Run) and Fayez Ahmed (Fencing).

GUATEMALA

The roll-out of a Sports Activation Protocol has allowed the Guatemala NF to provide face-to-face training for prioritized athletes along with the virtual training that was already in place. Several Guatemala athletes including medallists from the 2019 Pan American Games took part in UIPM #LaserAllStars and the 2020 Virtual National Games in their own country on September 24-25.

PHILIPPINES



As well as providing athletes and a video crew for UIPM 2020 #LaserAllStars, the Philippines NF resumed competition with a one-off 'Triathle 2020' event at New Ormoc City National High School Swimming Pool on September 5. There were three age categories (U12, U16 and U23) for male and female participants.

RUSSIA

After a New Pentathlon test event in Rostov, the NF staged the Russian National Championships in Moscow from August 29 to September 6, with a full quota of individual qualification and finals, relays and team classifications. Uliana Batashova (RUS) and Alexander Lifanov (RUS) won the individual titles.

UKRAINE



Several competitions were held in Ukraine as soon as Government restrictions allowed, with the NF arranging the National Modern Pentathlon Championships for all ages in August and a Laser Run Dynamo Open in September, which brought together youth, senior and Masters athletes.

UZBEKISTAN

Government restrictions meant that participation was restricted to those from the capital city Tashkent, but the newly-formed National Federation in Uzbekistan organized its first-ever Laser Run competitions for U13 and senior athletes at the Universal Jumping Club on August 29. Elena Osminkina and Muslim Izmaylov won the senior titles.



A teenage Laser Run athlete practises his shooting during group training which resumed in Bangladesh

UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Championships in Cancun (MEX) cancelled

The UIPM Executive Board voted to cancel the UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Championships in Cancun (MEX).

It would have been the first UIPM competition to take place since the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic caused the suspension of all global competitions and UIPM Sports development activity in March 2020. The event was awarded to Mexico in February after it became clear that restrictions in China would prevent it from taking place in Xiamen (CHN).

Despite a further postponement, the local organising committee in Cancun (MEX) continued to plan for a competition scheduled for November 30 to December 8 with tight controls aimed at ensuring the safety of athletes and others involved in the competition.

During extensive discussions between the Executive Board, opinions were aired from multiple angles to discuss the pros and cons of the proposed World Championships going ahead. UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann paid tribute to the local organising committee in Cancun (MEX) for their

extensive efforts in attempting to help UIPM stage the competition.

He said: "We announce this decision with heavy hearts. We will forever be grateful to our dedicated Modern Pentathlon community and their partners in Mexico for stepping in as hosts for the UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Championships.

"They made a supreme effort to organise this event, even after it was postponed. In the end, there were many merits in the proposal to host our flagship competition in Cancun in November and December, but unfortunately there were also many difficulties and concerns, resulting finally in the decision of the UIPM Executive Board to cancel.

"The whole world continues to struggle with the COVID-19 Coronavirus and sport is no exception. But we must remain strong and hopeful and focused on one outcome: that this will eventually pass. Our activities will return when the time is right."

The next UIPM competition will be the UIPM 2021 Junior World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) scheduled for February and March next year.

ROAD TO TOKYO

Athlete interviews

Marie Oteiza (FRA) chases Olympic gold with 'best team in the world'

Many believe that the true mark of a champion in sport is the ability to succeed even on days that seem to be going badly.

So it was for Marie Oteiza of France when she chased her target of Tokyo 2020 Olympic qualification at the 2019 European Championships in Bath (GBR).

Halfway through the competition she was way off the pace, but she summoned the determination to finally cross the line in 10th position and snatch one of those coveted quota places for her country.

Oteiza (FRA), 26, has become a mature competition at senior level in the four years since her team-mate Elodie Clouvel (FRA) won silver at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

She won a remarkable gold at the 2018 European Championships in Szekesfehervar (HUN) and quickly followed up with bronze at the UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico City (MEX). A UIPM Pentathlon World Cup gold medal followed in Sofia (BUL) in 2019.

In the latest Road to Tokyo interview she tells us how she became involved in Modern Pentathlon and the one that would make her happiest if she were able to win the ultimate accolade of Olympic gold.



Marie Oteiza (FRA) keeps her eye on her target of Olympic gold

Q: How did it feel in 2019 when you

secured a qualification place for the Tokyo Olympics at the European Championships?

A: I was so happy, because it was a very difficult day for me. I started with a bad Swimming and a bad Fencing, which are supposed to be my strongest events. So to start the day this way and finish it with my qualification place for Tokyo was incredible.

Q: Can you remember watching the last Olympic Games in Rio in 2016? What were you thinking?

A: I was envious! For the last Olympics I was really close to achieving qualification but I missed it, so it wasn't an option this time for me. I trained very hard for four years to have it, and I want more!

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

A: For me it's an opportunity. I'm still a young pentathlete, so it means one more year to gain more experience.

Q: How have you been continuing to train during the Coronavirus crisis?

A: It was very difficult. I first tried to continue training but in Paris all the swimming pools and fencing halls were closed, so we trained at home.

Q: What has been the most challenging part of the pandemic?

A: The most challenging part of the pandemic was to not see all my training partners and friends. And now that we are all reunited we are all in a hurry to have a competition very soon.

Q: And what positive things have you seen?

A: This pandemic crisis made me realise one thing – we all need to change the way we live. We need to be more careful and respectful about our environment.

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

A: I started Pentathlon in 2008. I was a swimmer and I always wanted to

ROAD TO TOKYO: OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

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

ride, but it wasn't possible in the town where I lived.

So Modern Pentathlon was the opportunity for me to ride, and to keep swimming.

And then I discovered fencing, and I loved it so much that I knew that Modern Pentathlon was a sport for me.

Q: What motivates you in training?

A: Winning, of course. Olympics. And my team. I love them so much, I would be so proud to win an Olympic gold medal just to show to the world that my team is the best!

Q: Describe yourself as an athlete in three words.

A: Fighter, determined, stubborn.



Oteiza (FRA) celebrates winning gold at UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia



Growing up in France, Marie Oteiza always wanted to ride but it wasn't possible until she took up the Modern Pentathlon



Oteiza (FRA) scores a hit in the Fencing Bonus Round during the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Budapest (HUN)

Q: What is your ultimate ambition in Modern Pentathlon?

A: To win a gold medal at the Olympic Games.

Shuai Luo (CHN) stays positive on long journey to dream destination

Shuai Luo, 23, is part of a new wave of pentathlon talent coming out of China and making an impact not just at continental but also world level.

Luo (CHN) enjoyed a breakthrough win at the 2017 Asia/Oceania Championships in Gotemba (JPN) and then won bronze at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta (INA).

His progress could be charted by a series of top-20 finishes on the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup circuit, culminating in the highlight of his career to date: a silver medal at the Asia/Oceania Championships and Olympic Qualifier in Wuhan (CHN) in November 2019. Luo (CHN) does not



Shuai Luo (CHN) is part of a new wave of Pentathlon talent coming out of China

have to look far for inspiration when contemplating the Olympic Games. His coach is Zhongrong Cao, who became China's first Olympic medallist in Modern Pentathlon when he claimed silver at the London 2012 Games.

In this interview, Luo (CHN) discusses the difficulties in staying fit and focused on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games now it has been postponed to 2021, reveals his sporting idol and tells us why he fell in love with Modern Pentathlon.

Q: How did it feel in 2019 when you won silver at the Asia/Oceania Championships and a qualification place for the Tokyo Olympics?

A: I feel great, I am very happy to have the opportunity to participate in the Olympics, it's like a dream come true.

Q: What do you remember about the last Olympic Games in Rio in 2016? What were you thinking during that time?

A: I was only 19 years old at that time and just became a rookie pentathlete. At that time, the Olympic Games were still far away from me and I was not very impressed.

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

A: The postponement of the Olympic Games has given me more time to

prepare. I also feel a little anxious about the extension. But I think it's the same for all athletes, we all have a longer preparation period.

Q: How have you been continuing to train during the COVID-19 Coronavirus crisis?

A: The pandemic made our training difficult. When the pandemic first started, we had to stay in our rooms for three months. However, the pandemic situation in China is now relatively well controlled.

We are also allowed to gradually resume training in a closed environment. However, due to site restrictions,



Shuai Luo and his team-mate Linbin Zhang (CHN) pose with their silver and bronze medals at the 2019 Asia/Oceania Championships in Wuhan (CHN)



Luo (CHN) in action in the Fencing Bonus Round during the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Championships in Budapest (HUN)

equestrian training has been greatly affected.

Q: What has been the most challenging part of the pandemic?

A: When I first stayed in the room, I couldn't train normally and my weight started to increase. Obviously this has had a great impact on my recovery training, and there are also hidden dangers of injury. The lack of competition for a long time also poses a huge challenge to my concentration in training.

Q: And what positive things have you seen?

A: The pandemic is gradually being brought under control worldwide, and our lives are gradually returning to normal. I think this is the most positive aspect.

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



Luo (CHN) enters the Swimming arena alongside Mixed Relay team-mate Xiuting Zhong (CHN)

A: In 2014, I started training for part of the Modern Pentathlon. I was instantly attracted by the charm of this sport.

Q: What motivates you in training?

A: Because I love this sport very much, training can improve my performance and enable me to achieve better results in competitions, which makes me feel happy.

Q: Describe yourself as an athlete in three words.

A: Confident, brave, positive.

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

A: LeBron James is my role model. His desire for victory, his perseverance and self-discipline in life are all worth learning.

Q: What is your ultimate ambition in Modern Pentathlon?

A: There is no doubt that winning the Olympic gold medal is my ultimate ambition. I am still young and I will continue to work towards this goal step by step.

Pavel Ilyashenko (KAZ) aims to benefit from extra year of preparation

Fifteen years after his early involvement in UIPM Sports as a youth athlete, Pavel Ilyashenko of Kazakhstan is feeling primed for a peak performance at the Olympic Games.

The accumulation of experience is never-ending, and Ilyashenko (KAZ) not only has two Olympic Games (London 2012 and Rio 2016) and an impression track record – world junior silver in 2011, Asian champion in 2013, bronze in the UIPM 2015 Pentathlon World Cup Final and UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo – in his favour.

He also has an extra year to prepare, because of the postponement of Tokyo 2020 to 2021, having already secured a quota qualification place for his



Pavel Ilyashenko (KAZ) in action during the Mixed Relay



A thumbs up from Ilyashenko (KAZ) ahead of his swim during UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Cairo

country on account of finishing 4th at the 2019 Asia/Oceania Championships and Olympic Qualifier.

In this interview the Russia-born athlete talks about the unexpected change of pace brought about by the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and how he

has refused to let it interfere with his motivation.

Q: How did it feel in 2019 when you finished 4th at the Asia/Oceania Championships and a qualification place for the Tokyo Olympics?



Ilyashenko (KAZ) is a competent rider after 15 years competing in Modern Pentathlon

A: I was very happy, it was the best day of 2019.

Q: If selected to represent Kazakhstan at Tokyo 2020 (in 2021), it will be your third Olympic Games. Will you do anything differently this time?

A: I have learnt a lot of new things.

Q: How do you feel when you think back to London 2012 and Rio 2016?

A: I feel the bitterness of defeat, I try not to recall it.

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

A: I believe this is good news for me. I have time to improve some of the disciplines I am not good at.

Q: How have you been continuing to train during the Coronavirus crisis?

A: I worked out (practised, exercised) at home, and trained online with my coach.

Q: What has been the most challenging part of the pandemic?

A: The hardest thing was to get used to new rules and norms in life and, of course, being unable to leave my home.

Q: And what positive things have you seen?

A: I was able to get busy with other things, not related to sports. There were other things to do outside of sports.

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

A: I grew up in Russia, in Ufa. My brother introduced me to Modern Pentathlon.

Q: What motivates you in training?

A: Winning motivates me.

Q: Describe yourself as an athlete in three words.

A: Calm, brave, hardy.

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

A: Andrejus Zadneprovskis.

Q: What are your favourite disciplines in Modern Pentathlon?

A: Fencing, Riding, Laser Run.

#LaserAllStars / #PentathlonDay



A truly global celebration as sharp shooters mark 3rd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day in style

Twenty-four athletes from five continents – including three from the same family – became the first UIPM Laser All Stars medallists after a thrilling day of virtual competition.

On the 3rd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day, September 9, Egypt topped the inaugural #LaserAllStars medal table with four gold medals along with two silver and two bronze, while Great Britain scooped seven medals including two golds.

There were also medals for athletes from established pentathlon nations Mexico, Russia and Guatemala as well as Ecuador, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Switzerland and Moldova.

It was a day when the first-ever global online laser shooting competition came to a conclusion.

It was also a day when UIPM's worldwide community came together online with the annual #High5 social media campaign. And the fun vibes and friendly spirit were underlined by one family that produced three medallists competing in the same house.

In the first-ever #LaserAllStars medal play-off, Eman Mousa of Egypt won bronze in the Women's 40+ Masters category. Later in the day, her son Ibrahim Al Desoky won Men's Under 22 gold and he then watched as his elder brother Abdelrahman Mahmoud emerged triumphant in the Men's Under 40 category.

The three family members came

together to celebrate on the UIPM TV live stream at the end – a scene in keeping with the theme of the day.

A group of competitors in Egypt also gathered to compete in a club setting, some of them in direct competition with each other. This situation was replicated:

- in Guatemala, where Sofia Cabrera and Gabriela Fernandez faced off from adjacent tables
- in Afghanistan, where Ajmal Safi and Karim Nawid met in the semi-finals, Safi (AFG) winning an epic battle 4-3
- in Great Britain, where U15 competitors Zoe Spokes, Imogen Edwards Travis Moore and Toby Aberdeen all competed with each other from their homes.

Athletes confined to home competed

in their living rooms, halls and back yards, all united by a sense of common purpose – to test their shooting abilities under pressure and enjoy competing together at a time when physical events are still so difficult to arrange.

For almost four and a half hours the action was relayed live on UIPM TV, under the watchful eye of tireless commentator James Tzanoudakis and certified international UIPM judges Tunde Szeles (HUN) and Ana Ruth Orellana (GUA), for whom interventions were rare as most competitors' technology stood up to the test.

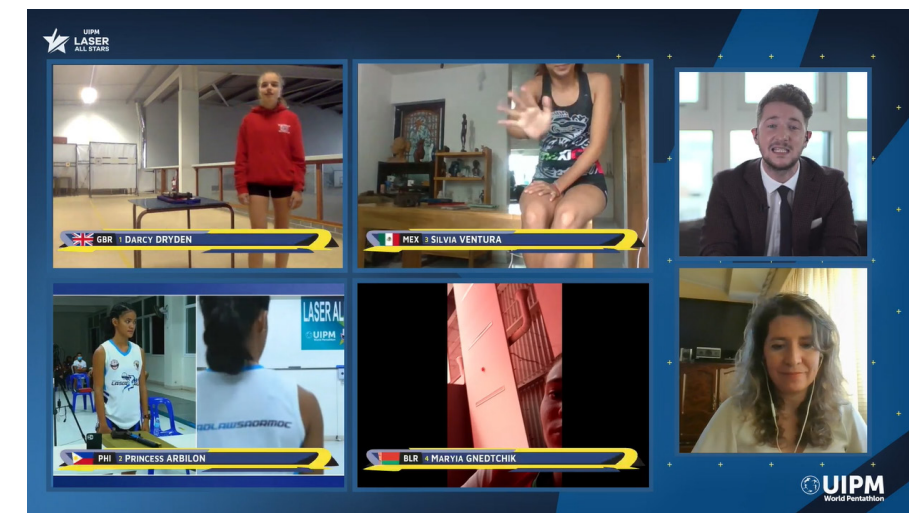
In fact, it was a historic day in terms of technological innovation. The laser shooting targets that recorded the participants' timing and registered their hits sent data directly to an online server which enabled the production team to create graphics for the audience to view in real time.

Clair Carman (GBR), Women's 40+ champion, said: "You underestimate how nervous you're going to feel because so many people are watching, and you make silly mistakes. But it was really exciting and thank you to everybody involved. It's absolutely fantastic that you can compete from home."

Silvia Ventura (MEX), Women's U22 champion, said: "I feel really proud to represent Mexico especially considering the difficult situation linked to COVID-19. I feel really happy and I would like to thank all of those who supported me for this result to happen."

Valery Schukin (RUS), Men's U15 champion, said: "It was very exciting whether the equipment, the gun or the internet would fail, doubly from the fact that I represented Russia alone today. I am very glad of the victory, the training was not in vain. Thank you all for your support, I'm happy!"

UIPM Laser All Stars was born out of a



clear appetite for virtual competition among the global UIPM community since COVID-19 lockdown measures were introduced, and its creation

followed the popular UIPM Laser Home Run event that first brought competitors together online in May 2020.

Janusz Peciak, UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport and 1976 Olympic champion, said: "It was wonderful to see so many athletes of all ages – from five different continents – take part in the first UIPM Laser All Stars.

"Once again we have seen the dedication and love that people have

for UIPM Sports and the desire to come together and test their abilities under pressure in a global competition online. In this difficult time of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, we were able to join together as a worldwide Modern Pentathlon movement to underline those values through the very special actions of our

athletes, reminding the world that we are alive and communicating through online methods with many people in the Olympic movement.

"My thanks go to all who participated in these days and especially today, in the 3rd UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day."

Viacheslav Malishev, UIPM Executive Board Member for Development, added: "I was very happy to see pentathletes taking part once again in celebrations of our special day on various social media. Each year we see our community growing, with an increasing number of countries participating in Modern Pentathlon

and UIPM Sports not only in person but also online. Today was a great demonstration of the worldwide development of our movement."

The #High5 campaign was created by the UIPM as part of the Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day, as a symbol of commitment to preserving and

building on the legacy of Coubertin.

This social media activation is ongoing and the #High5 is recognised as a symbol of dedication. By raising and showing their 'High 5' anyone can demonstrate their own commitment to protect, promote and further develop Modern Pentathlon.



News from around the world

Modern Pentathlon on provisional list of sports for 3rd European Games in Krakow-Malopolska (POL)

The UIPM Sports community in Europe has a new competitive goal to work towards after Modern Pentathlon was named on the provisional sports programme for the 3rd European Games in Krakow-Malopolska (POL) in 2023.

A list of 23 sports were revealed during a meeting between the European Olympic Committees (EOC) and a delegation from Poland at the headquarters of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) in Rome (ITA).

According to a report on the EOC website, Acting President Niels Nygaard said: "It was a highly productive meeting and we were very happy to see such a strong commitment from the Polish delegation. It was a great start, we have worked as a team and reached concrete results, setting a precise roadmap for the future. We look forward to continuing ahead in the same spirit."

The report said that discussions centred on Games preparations, the proposed sports programme and the philosophy of the European Games, including potential opportunities for Poland, Krakow and the Matopolska Region.

"It was a highly productive meeting and we were very happy to see such a strong commitment from the Polish delegation," said Acting President Nygaard. "It was a great start, we have worked as a team and reached concrete results, setting a precise roadmap for the future. We look forward to continuing ahead in the same spirit."



Lukasz Gutkowski and Oktawia Nowacka (POL) will hope to compete on home soil in 2023

The report said the preliminary list of 23 sports for the 2023 Games was subject to final negotiations with each of the European and International sports federations. A key criterium for selection was whether the sports will use the European Games as their continental championships and/or offer qualification for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

The preliminary list comprises archery, artistic swimming, badminton, basketball 3x3, beach handball, breaking, canoe (slalom; sprint), cycling (mountain bike; road), fencing, gymnastics, judo, karate, modern pentathlon, mountain running, rugby sevens, shooting, ski jumping (summer), sport climbing, table tennis, triathlon, volleyball (beach volleyball; volleyball), weightlifting and wrestling.

Spyros Capralos, IOC Member and CoCom Chair both for the Baku 2015 and Minsk 2019 European Games,

emphasised that the European Games are an integral part of the Olympic journey and "the inclusion of new sports in the programme will be an asset for the Games and for Poland".

UIPM becomes member of Global Esports Federation

A year of breaking new ground and embracing digital technology has continued with the announcement of a partnership between UIPM and the Global Esports Federation (GEF).

After a vote of approval by the Executive Board, UIPM joins World Karate and the International Canoe Federation in bringing GEF's International Federation (IF) membership to eight, reflecting the growing convergence of sport, esports and virtual sports.

The global UIPM community has already been immersed in virtual sports

during the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, with athletes from all continents participating in new global competitions such as #LaserAllStars in August and September and #LaserHomeRun in May.

Development work continues on UIPM's own esports products and the new affiliation with GEF will add further credibility to the advances made in electronic sports by the governing body of Modern Pentathlon, Tetrathlon, Triathlon, Biathlon and Laser Run.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "We are excited to partner with the Global Esports Federation to provide more opportunities to participate in esports to members of our global UIPM Sports community and the wider world. Like the IOC, we see great potential for incorporating electronic and virtual forms of UIPM Sports into our movement.

"Innovation has been a cornerstone of our movement ever since the Modern Pentathlon was founded by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and introduced to the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912. Today marks another important milestone in our journey. UIPM is committed to innovation and making our

sports appeal to younger generations, and we look forward to sharing our esports products with the world."

The GEF now has more than 70 member federations, sharing the collective mission to bridge the connection between sport, esports and virtual sport – powered by innovative technology.

GEF President Chris Chan said: "The addition of new International Federation members is testament to the vital work the Global Esports Federation has put in to develop the community and facilitating the convergence of esports, sport, technology and innovation.

"We anticipate greater collaboration among our members and partners in developing initiatives that are in service to the esports community through our #worldconnected platform."

In addition to becoming a member of the GEF, UIPM and the other IF members join the International Federations Advisory Council (IFAC), established to supplement the GEF's knowledge capacity and scale for the benefits and potential of the future of esports. For more information on the GEF visit globalesports.org.

UIPM Sports athletes offered scholarships to enrol in World Academy of Sports

Pentathletes from all member federations of UIPM have been invited to apply for scholarships with the World Academy of Sports (WAOs).

Opportunities have been offered to thousands of athletes to gain an online qualification with the global sports institution after a memorandum of understanding signed between WAOs and UIPM. The news follows the selection of Sondas Aboubakr (EGY) for a scholarship to enrol on the Master of Sport Administration course at the Russian International Olympic University in Sochi (RUS).

The WAOs scholarships fit into two categories: Online Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) and Online Athlete Certificate.

PGCert

The Online Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) will be developed and delivered by the University of London (GBR) and can be completed at the student's own pace in up to five years.

One 100% scholarship worth £3,500



(€3,800) is available for the PGCert, with another 10 athletes set to benefit from a 50% subsidy worth £1,750 (€1,900) through the agreement between WAoS and UIPM.

National Federations have been advised that athletes who wish to apply to the PGCert must have an existing undergraduate degree or at least five years relevant work experience and professional references. They must also have an English language level of 6.5, with 6.0 in the written test, in the IELTS system or an equivalent proficiency certification.

The deadline for applications to the PGCert is November 8, 2020 and the opportunity applies to the January 2021 intake.

Athlete Certificate

The WAoS Athlete Certificate is designed for youth athletes aged between 15 and 18 and takes five hours to complete. Up to 100 places are available to each National Federation

that applies before the deadline of December 13, 2020.

The provision of such educational scholarships is part of UIPM's commitment to the athletes through the Athletes Centered Programme (ACP). WAoS offers a fully online educational pathway from high school to Postgraduate education.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "On behalf of the UIPM Executive Board I am delighted that we are in a position to offer educational opportunities to so many athletes through the MOU signed with the World Academy of Sports.

"Our sport is closely linked to the academic world and focused strongly on education. Many pentathletes have achieved high success in their careers based on qualifications obtained alongside their sporting commitments and their intellectual capacity. I strongly encourage all eligible athletes to apply for this wonderful opportunity."

All applications to the WAoS scholarship scheme must be submitted by a UIPM National Federation (NF). Interested NFs which should send a note of interest to operations@pentathlon.org.

UIPM and Absolute Fencing Gear extend partnership to 2024

UIPM has extended its partnership with Absolute Fencing Gear to 2024.

The new agreement, which covers the Paris 2024 Olympic Games cycle, serves to ensure that athletes in global and continental Modern Pentathlon competitions will continue to benefit from world-class fencing equipment and apparel.

In 2016, Absolute Fencing Gear was awarded 'Best Contribution' in the UIPM Annual Awards in recognition of its contribution to the development of the sport, and entered into an agreement with UIPM covering the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games cycle.



Absolute Fencing's competition system is put to the test in the California sunshine during UIPM 2018 Pentathlon World Cup Los Angeles



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann with Absolute Fencing Gear CEO Gary Lu, whose company has signed up to provide Fencing equipment and apparel throughout the Paris 2024 Olympic cycle

Now the partnership has been extended for another four years, reflecting the importance of Absolute Fencing Gear – a leading global manufacturer and supplier of high-quality and affordable fencing equipment and apparel, based in New Jersey (USA) – as a valued partner.

Dr Klaus Schormann, UIPM President, said: "I am delighted to confirm that our agreement with Absolute Fencing Gear has been extended to 2024.

"Fencing has been a cornerstone of our sport ever since it was founded by the Baron Pierre de Coubertin and introduced to the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912. But the evolution of this discipline as part of Modern Pentathlon has been interesting to follow.

"In 1972, UIPM became the first International Federation to introduce epee fencing for women. In 2002 a new electronic system was introduced, and since then we have embraced technology at every step of the journey.

"The Fencing Bonus Round has

provided a new showcase for the discipline to all people who have been watching our sport since 2015, with a very special presentation at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

"We have come a long way with Absolute Fencing, and now we look forward to future possibilities hand in hand with a trusted partner and friend of our sporting movement."

Gary Lu, Absolute Fencing Gear CEO, added: "Absolute Fencing is honoured to continue our partnership with UIPM, presenting our traditional world-class fencing gear as well as new, highly visual and exciting technology to further engage audiences.

"We are proud to extend our relationship to 2024 and collaborate with UIPM as we work through this challenging time for Olympic and world sports, under the leadership of President Dr Klaus Schormann and Secretary General Shiny Fang.

"Our dedication and commitment remain with UIPM as we look towards a mutually successful future."

Uldis Putnins (1954-2020)

The UIPM Sports community in Latvia and around the world is mourning the loss of Uldis Putnins, a two-time world junior champion, revered coach and administrator in Modern Pentathlon.

Uldis first won the world junior crown in 1974 and retained it in 1975, inspiring a love for competition that led the athlete to devote most of his life to sport and the development of new generations of pentathletes.



Uldis trained pentathletes not only in Latvia, but also in Germany. From 1991 to 1993 he took part in administrative work as Secretary General of the Latvia Modern Pentathlon Federation (LMPF). In 1992 in Barcelona (ESP), he served as senior coach to the first Latvia Modern Pentathlon team to take part in the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

LMPF President Janis Liepins paid a fulsome tribute to his compatriot. He said: "We have lost a Modern Pentathlon sports specialist, a professional, a promoter of sports and active lifestyle, a competent coach for young athletes and a very smart and good colleague. We express our deepest regret to relatives, friends and colleagues of Uldis Putnins."

Col John Russell OLY
(1920-2020)

The extraordinary life of Colonel John Russell OLY, UIPM Medal of Honor winner, has come to an end.

Col Russell, who was presented with one of the UIPM's highest honours in February 2020, died at his home in Texas on September 30. He was 100 years, seven months and 28 days old.

America's oldest Olympic medalist served as a coach and mentor to generations of pentathletes from many nations, having been appointed to run the US Modern Pentathlon Training Centre at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas in 1956.

As a show jumper he competed in his first Olympic Games at London 1948 and enjoyed one of the highlights of his distinguished career when winning bronze at Helsinki 1952 on Democrat.

He also won the Aga Khan Trophy,



UIPM Treasurer John Helmick (left) and NORCECA Confederation President Rob Stull join Col John Russell at his 100th birthday celebrations in February 2000

the Prix de Nations and the Hamburg Trophy, and in 2001 he was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.

As a soldier he served under the legendary General George Patton - an Olympic pentathlete who competed for the US at Stockholm

1912 - in World War II, earning a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for wounds he received at Cassino.

John Russell learned to ride on his family's dairy farm in Pennsylvania at the age of five and got his first pony at seven, embarking on a life-long quest in equestrian sport.



AS YOU LOOK TO
THE 2021 SEASON ...

LOOK
YOUR BEST

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SWIMMING



FENCING



RIDING



SHOOTING



RUNNING



LASER RUN
SPOTLIGHT

It's a numbers
game across
NORCECA



A cross-section of athletes of mixed ages and genders sets off from the start line during a Global Laser Run City Tour in Guatemala

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

The NORCECA Modern Pentathlon Confederation covers North America, Central America and the Caribbean – a vast region that is home to almost 600 million people with almost limitless potential for sports development.

As Laser Run is designed as a plug-and-play concept that can be made accessible to any urban community in the world through the Global Laser

Run City Tour (GLRCT), the possibilities for growth of UIPM Sports in the region are extensive.

The unexpected disruptions of 2020 may have put the entire sporting world on pause, but Laser Run will be a catalyst for growth when restrictions on mass-participation sport ease.

In the fifth part of the Laser Run Spotlight series, we speak to senior office-bearers from National Federations in Guatemala and United States to find out what their strategic priorities will be when initiatives like the GLRCT resume.



Why Biathlon/Triathlon crossover is key
Jorge Rodriguez (Executive Committee Member, Guatemala National Modern Pentathlon Association)

Q: Guatemala was one of the first countries to join the GLRCT. What was the initial purpose and have you achieved your goals and results?

A: Initially the objective was to provide an opportunity in Guatemala for all athletes to participate in an international event under the organization of the UIPM. The objective was fulfilled with





A bunch start sees a sprint to the shooting range during a GLRCT event in Guatemala

the realization of this event for several years giving opportunities not only to pentathletes, but also to aspiring pentathlon sport at school level and enthusiasts of Modern Pentathlon.

Q: Is it correct that you focus on youth participation in GLRCT? How do you find and engage these young participants?

A: Aiming for the participation of young people in GLRCT is positive, in the sense that there are many activities with which sport competes for the attention of young people, and young people in Guatemala have enthusiastically engaged in practising sports, sharing with friends and getting to know the new facilities where these events take place.

The try-outs are carried out in schools with Biathlon and Triathlon variations and this is the main source from which athletes come. There are currently no Pentathlon sports clubs in Guatemala but a medium-term project is being worked on to implement it and cover all the national territory.

Q: At the UIPM 2019 Biathlon/Triathlon World Championships, Guatemala was one of the biggest delegations and more than half of delegation

members were very young. Did any of them also participate in GLRCT and other national Laser Run competitions?

A: Yes, most of the athletes who competed in BTWCH 2019 participated in Laser Run and also participated in national school competitions, Biathlon and Triathlon events.

Q: Do you have opportunities to offer Laser Run training only in the capital or also in other cities of Guatemala?

A: Currently there is an opportunity to train just in the capital city. However, we have an expansion project throughout the national territory to take this opportunity to more places in the Republic of Guatemala.

Q: Your NF was one of the first to organized online laser shooting competitions and there were many athletes from Guatemala in #LaserAllStars. How was your experience with this virtual event?

A: The experience was very helpful, the athletes once again had contact with athletes from other countries and were able once again to experience the excitement of competition. The good work done by the Guatemalan coaches during the

quarantine time (April-July) allowed the athletes to maintain their training at home and when this virtual event was presented, the work was demonstrated by two athletes placing in 2nd and 3rd place in the U19 Women's category.



A two-fold journey to mass participation

Dan Browne (National Team Coach, USA Pentathlon)

Q: Your National Federation has become active in GLRCT since 2019. What was the catalyst for this activity?

A: I would have to say the leadership emphasis of the UIPM and the Executive Board was the catalyst for the prioritization of Laser Run activities within the United States. With this emphasis, we hosted three events in 2019 which were well received by those individuals who participated. •

Q: For a big country with so many potential participants in Laser Run competitions, what is your plan to attract more participants in future?

A: The plan is two-fold. First, to continue to pursue identifying

locations throughout the United States that would like to host GLRCT events. Secondly, to work with the various club systems throughout the United States in order to support their efforts to host Laser Run competitions and bring more people into the sport.

Q: What were the main positive outcomes from GLRCT in USA in 2019? Did it bring some more interest to Biathlon/Triathlon?

A: Through exposing individuals that participated in the GLRCT events we were able to drive some of those participants more closely into the Modern Pentathlon family. One example of how promoting Laser Run through the GLRCT events increased participation of Pentathlon activities in the US can be seen in the establishment of the Wolfpack Pentathlon Club in San Jose, California. Kirt Iverson saw the excitement of the event and took it to the next level in establishing his club.

Q: Have there been any local Laser Run events in USA this year during the pandemic?

A: We have been limited in our Laser Run activities because of the COVID-19 crisis that has affected the world. Our emphasis right now is focused on the virtual Laser Run framework.

Q: What do you think about the future of virtual and hybrid competitions such as UIPM #LaserHomeRun and #LaserAllStars? How can we encourage participants from USA?

A: There's no question that as long as the threat of COVID exists, there needs to be opportunities for athletes within the Pentathlon family to compete.

Virtual/hybrid competitions are an avenue to pursue that connectedness that is missing because of the global pandemic. We can encourage participants in the United States by continuing to promote at the UIPM level the opportunities that exist out there to "virtually" compete at these events.

Q: How does your NF see Laser Run



Young male athletes test their accuracy on the laser-shooting range in the USA



Junior Laser Run athletes pose on the start line

in terms of a serious sport and also a sport for fun?

A: Having the UIPM Laser Run World Championships contested concurrently with the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships highlights the competitive aspect of the sport.

USA Pentathlon views these opportunities as an important

gateway and talent identifier for our organization. Separately, there are many individuals that participate in Laser Run activities who are primarily runners that just want to try something unique and new. We welcome both perspectives because they increase the awareness of Modern Pentathlon in the United States, thereby driving the sport forward into the future.

UIPM Para Sports



Veteran pentathlete Yasser Hefny (EGY) oversees a Para Laser Run shooting session

Yasser Hefny (EGY) in awe of para athletes as he embarks on coaching role

Yasser Hefny has seen a lot in 16 years competing in Modern Pentathlon.

But just when he had seen it all, he became acquainted with the most inspirational athletes in the UIPM Sports movement and felt like a rookie just starting out.

Hefny (EGY) recently volunteered to take over as shooting coach to Egypt's UIPM Para Sports team. In this interview he takes up the story, describing all the emotions he has felt since undertaking this important role.

Q: How did you get involved with coaching athletes in UIPM Para Sports?

A: Honestly I didn't plan it, I was attending the board meeting of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation as the head of the Athletes Committee ... and one of the topics was about the shooting coach who can't work with the para team any more because their training is during his days off. I don't blame him, he is old and he deserves some rest!

Without thinking I was like, "I have nothing on these days of the week and I can do it voluntarily and see if I will be able to continue", and it felt great to draw a smile on those faces. I got addicted and I decided I will commit some time to work with the Para team.

Q: How do you feel about having this opportunity?

A: In the beginning I had this feeling that I'm the guy who saved the situation – I was proud and walking tall... but after the first workout everything changed, I felt something like I needed these people more than they need me!

I was learning from them a lot of things – their amazing ability to adapt, their positive attitude, their strong willpower... honestly they are the real champs because of their willpower to keep going after all that they have been through!

Every athlete's journey in Para Sport is worth all the titles any great athlete has ever won.

Q: What signs of progress have you seen in the UIPM Para Sports movement?

A: I have been following the UIPM movement and plans regarding Para Pentathlon and I think they are doing a great job. Advising and supporting the National Federations to have a Para programme and organizing competitions for them... and most importantly the hard work the UIPM is doing to include Para Pentathlon in the Paralympics.

Q: What are the main challenges when coaching a para athlete?

A: There are several challenges I was facing in the beginning but I'm getting better, for example:

- Building the trust between me and the athletes wasn't so easy because the shooting coach who was working with them before me was very experienced in shooting and also in dealing with athletes.
- Choosing my words carefully when giving instructions.
- I have to be very patient and friendly; also I should find a way to make the training look more like a game but also give the right instructions and correct the technique. It's very hard to maintain this balance but I think I'm doing good, the para athletes are improving and having fun.

Q: And what are the most rewarding aspects?

A: I would say inner peace and, as I mentioned before, I learn from them how to be patient and positive. For example, I'm suffering from a bad chronic back injury and a lot of times I would be like "why me? Why did you do that to me? I don't deserve it!"

But then I look at those super athletes and how they can compete and train with all the problems they are facing mentally and physically. And I will be like "shame on me to be that weak and negative", and my thoughts directly changed to be a man! Be positive like those superheroes.

Q: Why is it so important for a National



Federation like the EMPF to have a para programme?

A: In my opinion every federation must have a para programme because those athletes deserve to have a normal life, they didn't choose to be disabled or handicapped. The least we can do for them is give them a chance to enjoy the sport and maybe compete... also it's the least we can do for their parents who put in a crazy effort to help those athletes keep going.

Q: You were also involved in the recent #LaserAllStars – what can you tell us about your experience?

A: I think it's a great idea to bring people from all over the world to compete together virtually during this hard time. It was fun for athletes and spectators; these are the kind of ideas that will help in promoting the sport.

Q: When did you decide to start coaching UIPM Sports and what are your goals as a coach?

A: As I mentioned in the first question it was a coincidence, a great one. My goal as para laser-shooting team coach is to make them smile and always be excited for the next workout. If I can achieve this formula it will be way easier to implement the shooting programme and I believe they will definitely improve as long as they are having fun.

Actually I didn't retire yet as an athlete, I'm recovering from my injury and I'm still fighting to catch up with our strong young Egyptian athletes in the road to Tokyo. To be honest, it's hard to beat those strong team-mates, but still not impossible. I have been through harder situations before and things went well. I guess after the 2021 season I will totally shift my career from athlete to full-time coach.

To find out more about opportunities in UIPM Para Sports contact para@pentathlon.org.

Inside UIPM: Secretary General's message

Tell us your Pentathlon stories!

We've all heard the story, right? The one about the 19th century cavalry officer whose ability to swim, ride, run, shoot and fight with a sword inspired Baron Pierre de Coubertin to create the Modern Pentathlon.

Five unique disciplines combined to provide the ultimate test of 'moral qualities as much as physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete'.

A sport designed to create the all-round hero of the Olympic Games, referred to as Victor Ludorum in the Ancient Games after the introduction of Pentathlon in Olympia in 708BC.

We all know this story, and it is a timeless reminder of the origin of our beloved sport, but it's not enough on its own. Modern Pentathlon has already evolved too much to be confined by this definition alone. And we need to keep evolving to protect our future.

That is why I am asking you, members of the global community who are the heartbeat of our sport, for help as we prepare for another Olympic Games.

What are your favourite Pentathlon stories?

What captures your imagination when you consider our sport? What makes it unique?

Who are the heroes of Pentathlon, and why? Are they real or imaginary?

Let's make it a competition. Send us your Pentathlon stories and you could win a special prize. There are no gold, silver or bronze medals at stake, but there will be a UIPM jury put in place to identify



the best stories and reward the authors of the stories that truly encapsulate the glory of our sport.

They can be short or long, true or fictional, written for print or scripted for audio / video. The only criteria is that the story must be about Pentathlon.

So why get involved?

You might be a coach, an athlete, an official, an administrator – or even a family member or a fan. By entering this competition, you will not only be testing your creativity and trying to win something. You will be helping us to tell the story of our sport to a global audience at the best possible time – during Olympic year.

And why are we doing this?

We are looking for good stories to help promote our sport, our competitions and our athletes.

We need your help to communicate the glory of our sport to people who are not yet part of our community, and whose knowledge of Pentathlon is limited or non-existent.

We need to underline our difference and uniqueness – to make a bold statement about the value of Pentathlon to the Olympic Games and the principles of Olympism.

Please submit your Pentathlon stories to communications@pentathlon.org by October 31. I can't wait to read them!

Inside UIPM: President's statement and activities

The UIPM President, Dr Klaus Schormann, has issued a message of hope to the global UIPM Sports community as the sporting world continues to struggle against the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Dear Modern Pentathlon Family, athletes, coaches, officials, parents and supporters,

We have all been faced with the COVID-19 Coronavirus since March 2020. This disease pandemic is affecting all our lives worldwide and we have to find the best ways to protect our health and the health of others.

We must never give up looking forward in a positive mood to a better future as soon as possible. Together with the International Olympic Committee, all International Federations of Olympic Sports are respecting the advice of the World Health Organization and the advice of our governments.

Step by step, we have to keep moving carefully towards normality in our daily activities and in the sport activities that we provide for athletes and other participants under the best health conditions.

In this September 2020 edition of the UIPM Newsletter, you will see that many National Federations have been able to resume some activities.

Our goal should be to come together again for training, competitions and meetings while respecting the measures put in place to limit the spread of the virus.

At this difficult time, it is paramount that we use all means of communication to share the message that we are all in this situation together. We are not lost.





UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Olympic champion Attila Mizser (HUN) during their video conference

08.09.2020: Darmstadt, GER

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann had a video conference with Olympic and world champion Attila Mizsér (HUN).

They discussed various marketing issues and ways in which Modern Pentathlon can achieve new partnerships with companies through connecting sport and business societies.

Attila Mizsér's proposals include a financial income for Modern Pentathlon, a future for athletes after their sporting career and an employee's lifestyle.

10.09.2020: Berlin, GER

President Dr Schormann took part in the third meeting of the German Olympic Committee (DOSB) Taskforce and the Ministry of the Interior as an



The third meeting of the German Olympic Committee (DOSB) Taskforce and the Ministry of the Interior

expert in international relations in sport, politics and business.

They discussed the international sport movement based on the economic and political situations in all continents and

the future of the Olympic Summer and Winter Games linked to human rights, peace through sport, education and integration through sport; the power and influence of sport in modern society.

16.09.2020: Berlin, GER

The UIPM President was invited by the German Government to attend a meeting of the Commission of Sport with members of all parliamentary factions.

The agenda covered international sport activities and focused especially

Below: UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann joins fellow sports leaders (left to right) FIL President Josef Fendt, FIBA Treasurer Ingo Weiss, DOSB Head of Office Christian Sachs, DOSB Vice-President Prof Dr Gudrun Doll-Teppe, ICF Vice-President Thomas Konietzko and ITTF President Dr Thomas Weikert



The third meeting of the German Olympic Committee (DOSB) Taskforce and the Ministry of the Interior



on the Olympic movement based on the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (now taking place in 2021), good governance, anti-doping issues, human rights, corruption, athletes' rights, actions during the pandemic and youth development through worldwide sport.

Among the invited guests were Josef Fendt (President of the International Luge Federation), Ingo Weiss (Treasurer of the International Basketball Federation), Christian Sachs (Head of Office at the DOSB), Prof Dr Gudrun Doll-Teppler (Vice-President of the DOSB), Thomas Konietzko (Vice-President of the International Canoe Federation) and Dr Thomas Weikert (President of the International Table Tennis Federation).

19.09.2020: Bensheim, GER

President Dr Schormann attended an Open Laser Run competition and met all of the youth participants. It was the latest in a number of UIPM Sports events organised to encourage participation at grassroots level in Germany.



Youth athletes focus on their shooting during the Laser Run event in Bensheim (GER)

25.09.2020: Munich, GER

Dr Klaus Schormann took part in a meeting of Sport A (agency for ARD/ZDF) and Sport TV as one of the three TV council members to discuss national and international competitions during the pandemic.

Among the matters discussed were the financial consequences of COVID-19 for sponsors and broadcasters; online competitions and new possibilities for sport federations and clubs to resume normal sporting activities with limited spectators; and how to protect the rights of sponsors through TV presentations of competitions in this difficult time.



UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann congratulates a group of young participants in the Laser Run competition in Bensheim (GER)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Steph Cook (GBR) becomes 'first lady' of Olympic Pentathlon



Steph Cook (GBR) becomes Modern Pentathlon's first female Olympic champion on October 1, 2000 in Sydney (AUS)



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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