In the Riding event, athletes have to complete a show jumping course that is between 400 and 450 metres including 12 obstacles and 15 jumps, in a set time.

A clear round within the time allowed is worth 300 points. Competitors lose 7 points for each jump they knock down and 10 points for a refusal to jump or a fall, which is equivalent to a 10-second handicap in the final Laser Run.

They also lose one point for each second they take over the allowed time.

PENALTIES (in points):
- Knock down: -7
- Refusal: -10
- Time: -1 per second

A pentathlon is a contest featuring five disciplines. The name is derived from Greek: combining the words PENTA (five) and ATHLON (competition). The first pentathlon was documented in Ancient Greece and was part of the Ancient Olympic Games.

The Modern Pentathlon was invented by Pierre de Coubertin (father of the Modern Olympics), with competitions in swimming, fencing, riding, shooting and running.

A prominent aspect of Modern Pentathlon is the point system, whereby each competitor is awarded a certain number of points based on their performance in each specific event. The overall winner is the competitor with the highest point total at the end of the five pentathlon events.

www.pentathlon.org
The majority of points are gained in the **Ranking Round**, where athletes fence against each of their rivals in bouts that last up to a minute. Just one hit is needed to win. If neither fencer has scored a hit after 60 seconds, they both register a defeat.

An athlete who wins 70% of their 35 bouts scores 250 points, with victory or defeat above or below is worth 6 points.

In addition, there is a **Bonus Round**, which allows pentathletes to gain extra points by competing in an elimination format on a single outdoor piste in front of the crowd at the main competition venue.

The competitor who has amassed the most points in Swimming, Fencing and Riding starts the Laser Run first, with the rest of the field subject to a **1sec handicap** for each point by which they trail the leader. For example, if the leader has 800 points and the second-placed athlete has 792, the handicap is 8sec. The first person to cross the finish line wins overall gold.

The climax of the Modern Pentathlon is the ultimate test of nerve and stamina. Athletes visit a range four times and shoot with a laser pistol at an electronic target. They must score five hits before embarking on the run, which consists of four **800m circuits**. If athletes take longer than **50sec** to hit their five targets, they may continue but any hopes of a medal will have gone.