Sport today is as much about entertainment as it is about great athletic performance...
Introduction

Sport today is as much about entertainment as it is about great athletic performance. In order to capture the hearts, minds and imaginations of the key stakeholders including athletes, trainers, broadcasters, media, spectators, fans and future generations of athletes, it is now become critical to present sport in an exciting and engaging way.

Sport Presentation for Modern Pentathlon

For Modern Pentathlon, our Sport Presentation (SP) is particularly important because of the very nature of our event. Five disciplines, using a point system that may be challenging to the uninitiated, taking place in a single venue, in a single day, over several hours. For those spectators watching for the first time, it may seem complex or difficult to understand; when in fact for those of us in the sport, we know it is actually quite easy. The competition may seem overly long and boring if nothing is happening between disciplines and it is easy to lose the interest of spectators if they are not kept engaged. It is the job of Sport Presentation to offer solutions for all these possibilities within an LOC structure.

Precursor to SP - Spectators

Great Sport Presentation cannot be achieved with empty stadiums. One of the most important responsibilities of any LOC is to ensure that there are an adequate number of spectators present. This number will necessarily vary from venue to venue and competition to competition, but never-the-less it is critical that the LOC use best efforts to promote the event locally to create awareness and attract spectators.

In many respects, top level athletes are like entertainers today. They are performers who perform best in front of an audience. It is disrespectful to our athletes not to do our best to attract spectators. They have worked very hard and deserve the opportunity to show what they have worked hard to attain in front of a large crowd. More people in the stands will help to create a better competitive environment and also attract the interest of sponsors and broadcasters, furthering the development and attractiveness of our sport and the athletes.

While this may not seem like part of Sport Presentation, it is actually a most critical component as there are three groups which Sport Presentation targets. First, it is the local spectators actually in the stadium, secondly it is the viewers at home watching via broadcast and third it is the athletes themselves, who perform better in front of, and are most deserving of a large crowd.
There are several key Sport Presentation areas which must be included in any LOC plan for Modern Pentathlon competition. While some of these areas are more likely to be considered part of a marketing/promotion campaign, it is important to recognize that SP and marketing are linked as part of a successful event. These key areas are utilized in every event and will be discussed discipline by discipline in detail later in this document. In general terms the key items necessary are:

A. VENUE SELECTION

Proper venue selection is a critical component of good SP. The ideal Modern Pentathlon venue is a single-stadium for all five disciplines, with a seating capacity equal to what the LOC believes they can fill. Care should be exercised in selecting a venue with good lines of sight for spectators and broadcast cameras, enough area for a good 800 meter running course inside the venue and visible for all 800 meters, and if possible to include any spectacular or iconic visuals such as the Marble stadium in Rome or the waterfront location in Sarasota.

B. STADIUM ANNOUNCER/MC

A good in-stadium announcer is a key component to making the Pentathlon experience successful for spectators and athletes alike. The job of the announcer is to engage the audience with the action taking place on the field of play (FOP). This includes announcements, announcing relevant parts of an athlete’s bio, calling the play-by-play of a race or match and of course announcing scores, who the current leader is at any time, changes in position, and generally keeping the audience excited, knowledgeable and engaged with the action on the FOP.

C. MUSIC/DJ

A good music “mix”, sound system and operator or “DJ” is critical to Sport Presentation. Music turns a competition into an event. It is important to have music from the moment the gate opens for spectators to enter the venue until the competition is completely over. The LOC must provide an adequate sound system with multiple microphones also to be used by the announcer. The suggested use of music will be discussed by discipline.

D. CONTINUITY

Modern Pentathlon when utilizing a single stadium necessarily has “breaks” in the competition. These “breaks” include at a minimum the time following the Bonus Round before the first rider enters the arena (about 20 minutes) and during the warmup period before the Combined event (about 30 minutes) and the time before the Awards ceremony (about 10-15 minutes). In a single-stadium, there may also be breaks before the swimming event and before the FBR depending on event order. Continuity involves the use of performers, or production “elements” that will keep the crowd entertained and the energy levels high until the action on the FOP resumes. This Continuity is critical for retaining the interest and attention of the spectators and for maintaining a level of high energy in the venue and amongst the competitors. See section 7 for more information regarding Continuity.

E. CLEAN FIELD OF PLAY

In presenting a UIPM category A level competition ALL FOP’s must be clean. This means that all unnecessary personnel and equipment must be removed from the FOP, the FOP must be well-designated and access restricted to only designated personnel. Equipment bags must be kept in the secure storage area provided by the LOC and only properly accredited personnel can be present on the FOP. The FOP area must be properly designated by fence or other approved material and there must be staff assigned to see that these rules are enforced.
This is important to create a professional “look” to the FOP for spectators present but perhaps more importantly for the broadcast and photographic images which will be recorded during the event and used to promote our sport and our athletes to a global audience.

**F. LOOK AND FEEL OF THE VENUE**

This is a rather broad category but critical for the LOC to understand and execute. Creating a proper “Look of the Games” involves not only the dressing of the venue according to UIPM standards (supervised by the UIPM delegate onsite) with appropriate signage, banners and decorative techniques but also requiring that all staff, volunteers and officials are properly dressed in the appropriate uniform for their job. Again, this is to create a professional appearance within the FOP for spectators and broadcasters.

**G. LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

It is important to have local culture represented through entertainment. Consider live music, singers, dance teams, sport exhibitions etc.

**H. ADDED ELEMENTS**

Each LOC is free and encouraged to be as creative as possible to make their event as exciting and unique as possible using SP. There are many opportunities for such creativity however to illustrate the concept, the finish area of the Combined is one such example. One LOC had the runners finish across the FBR stage. Confetti machines, balloons, large gantries, even pyrotechnics are all possibilities.

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**SPORT PRESENTATION BY DISCIPLINE**

**1. FENCING ROUND ROBIN (FRR)**

The FRR requires the least attention in terms of SP primarily because of the creation of the Bonus Round where the fencing discipline will be showcased in category A competitions. That said, there are several ways to enhance the presentation of the FRR.

**A. CLEAN AND WELL-DESIGNATED FIELD OF PLAY**

The FRR event at category A UIPM competitions will necessarily require at least 9 pistes. These pistes need to be positioned so that those spectators present have a good view of the action on the FOP.

**B. MUSIC/DJ DURING THE FRR**

Music is an important part of the sport experience. While this is a new development for the FRR, organizers should have music in the venue. This should be provided through a simple fast-paced playlist and speaker system. The volume can be adjusted so that it does not distract from the action on the FOP or disturb the competitors. Announcements can be made via the same sound system provided.
2. FENCING BONUS ROUND (FBR)

The Fencing Bonus Round (FBR) was passed by the UIPM Congress in Sofia, Bulgaria, 2014. It is important to remember the three primary reasons for the inclusion of the FBR.

- Broadcasters have made it clear that the traditional round-robin fencing format is not broadcast-friendly. This is largely because of the large number of matches going on simultaneously and the inability of the spectators to follow and understand the action. The FBR allows for a single-strip focus and an easy-to-understand format.
- The FBR allows for each athlete to be introduced to the spectators and viewing audience. This supports the creation and development of “stars” in our sport and allows for a modern and exciting sport-presentation of the fencing discipline.
- The FBR allows for the fencing discipline to be completed on one piste and in less than one hour. This allows for the possibility of an entire Modern Pentathlon competition to be held in a single stadium in less than 4 hours.

FBR SPORT PRESENTATION

The future of all Olympic sports is dependent upon successful sports presentation in order to excite and engage the fans and to create a broadcast-friendly event. The FBR is our answer to the difficulty in presenting the FRR to the general public.

FBR THE VENUE

Piste

The FBR must take place on a single piste. This is a normal fencing piste. Category A UIPM competitions will be supplied with the official UIPM FBR all-weather piste. Care should be taken to follow the UIPM rules and guidelines regarding piste placement for optimum spectator experience, power requirements and staging etc.

For locations where rain is a real possibility, care should be taken to provide a cover or roof over the piste extending at least one meter in all directions. The key is to provide protection from rain for the athletes and electric equipment.

Dressing

The FBR area should have a significant amount of banners, signage and decoration as this is a focal point of the event and often the first event spectators may see.

Uniforming

All volunteers should be in at least matching shirts. The referees should wear formal referee attire (usually a suit for men and women) and the announcers smartly dressed depending on gender and weather.

Scoring

Machines should be the normal UIPM electric scoring machines with care taken to provide multiple, large red and green indicators so that the spectators can easily see the lights. Large count-down clocks should be visible to the athletes, spectators and referee. Category A UIPM competitions will be provided with the UIPM FBR scoring equipment. Supplemental scoring lights may be needed depending on the venue and expected number of spectators.

Audio equipment must be provided. Sufficient audio support (microphones, speakers, mp3 players) is necessary to create an exciting atmosphere for sports presentation.
FBR ATHLETE PREPARATION AREA (CALL ROOM/AREA)

A covered athlete preparation area should be provided with adequate seating and provisions (water and nearby restrooms) near the FBR stage but ideally out of the direct view of the spectators. There should be one judge to answer questions and check each athlete in as well as to see that each athlete moves to the competition “ready-area” at the appropriate time.

In order to be most efficient and to allow the minimum waiting time for the athletes, it is suggested that the athletes are called to the Preparation Area in groups of 12, every 15 minutes.

For example, if the FBR is to start at 1:00 PM then the following schedule is suggested:

• 1:00 PM – Fencers ranked from 25th to 36th position are to be present in the Preparation Area.
• 1:15 PM – Fencers ranked from 13th to 24th position are to be present in the Preparation Area.
• 1:30 PM – Fencers ranked from 1st to 12th position are to be present in the Preparation Area.

FBR “READY” AREA

A small area very near the FBR stage where up to two athletes are waiting to be announced as the next athlete to be called on the piste to compete. In the “Ready” area, athletes will have their weapons controlled and wait to be called to the piste. In an ideal circumstance there will be some type of arch or gantry which an athlete will pass through immediately upon hearing their introduction as they leave the “ready” area and step onto the piste.

FBR SUGGESTED RUN OF SHOW

Introduction of the FBR

An announcer or announcers is critical to the successful sports presentation of the FBR. Ideally, in international competition the announcing should be in English and the local language. The job of the announcer is to:

1. Inform – Provide information regarding the event and about the athletes as well as provide “play-by-play” commentary that is not disruptive to the event or favoring one athlete over another.
2. Entertain – the announcers MUST BE entertaining. Pleasant personality, conviviality is important.
3. Interact – The announcers should know their audience and be able to interact and engage with the spectators.
4. Quick-witted – In order to provide just the “right amount” of humor and also to handle any problems or situations which occur and which need to be minimized so as not to affect the event.

Spectator “Warm-Up”

Prior to the start of the FBR the announcer should “warm-up” the spectators (if a successful marketing/promotion campaign has been implemented there will be a significant number of spectators). The warm-up should include:

1. Introduction of the announcers and the sport of Modern Pentathlon
2. Recognition of VIP’s and dignitaries who are present
3. A recap of the competition so far. How many nations, the importance of the competition, who is doing well (the leader board) etc.
4. Introduction and explanation of the FBR – what to watch for, how touches are scored, the time allowed, who has priority, how many bonus points are earned and how many victories an athlete has.
The spectator “warm-up” can and should be supported by short videos whenever possible, especially for UIPM category A competitions, where the video should be linked to the large video display required at category A events.

**Athlete Introduction**

Once the FBR “Warm-Up” has been completed, the announcers should start the actual FBR. The first pair (athletes ranked 36 and 35) are introduced and move from the “Ready Area” to the piste/stage.

It is important that the announcers build excitement. This is begun by being very dramatic with the introductions.

Entrance. Once announced, the athlete should proceed through the entrance provided (see venue) ideally there should be some sort of archway or at least some focal point created for the athletes to enter the piste/stage and concentrate the attention of the spectators.

Once on the piste, ideally the LOC has provided a volunteer to assist with the “hook-up”. This could be a young athlete or attractive male or female.

**Referees**

The judges and referees are an important part of the sports presentation of the FBR. They should be:

1. Effective and Efficient – manages the bout well
2. Knowledgeable – rules
3. Charismatic – able to be crowd friendly and award hits immediately to add excitement

Referees should be in uniform and have a microphone. They should take control of the fencing bout once the athlete introduction and “hook-up” is completed.

It is important that the referees understand that they are part of the “show” as well. Decisions must be immediate and clear. Gestures and hand and arm movements should be big so as to be easily seen and understood by the spectators. There should be close communication between the referee and the announcer so that decisions which are difficult to understand may be explained to the athletes, but also heard by the spectators for their benefit as well. For example in a situation where the time has expired without a touch being scored; the referee makes the decision and the announcer explains,

“Time has expired therefore the higher ranked fencer is the winner and will continue.”

**Music DJ’s and Audio Requirements**

One of the most important elements of the FBR and indeed the sports presentation for the entire final is the correct use of music and audio support such as DJ’s and announcers etc. Music and various audio support is a key element to create excitement, fan interest and engagement in an atmosphere conducive to “a fun sporting event”.

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Music Volume Levels

Only through rehearsal and testing within a specific venue can appropriate audio levels be determined. However, there is a simple way to communicate the audio levels to all those involved in the SP through a series of Levels, 1 through 5.

**Level 1** – Soft to be used as background music and not to interfere with the action on the FOP.

**Level 2** – Louder but easy to speak over for the Announcer/MC

**Level 3** – Louder but still able to speak over the music and have the audience understand you. This is as loud as you want to go and still try to speak at the same time. Used for the intros to most disciplines.

**Level 4** – Louder still to be used for music playlists for the swim and combined events

**Level 5** – Loudest and only used for short periods for example after a fencing hit and at appropriate moments requiring such an audio level.

Basic Audio Equipment Needed for Sports Presentation

A good sound system comprised of multiple speakers, control board and multiple wireless microphones (3 minimum).

The primary music/DJ audio uses and requirements

**Pre-Warm-Up** – Prior to the start of the “Spectator Warm-Up” a good DJ can make general announcements and play a variety of music designed to create a festive atmosphere. This should last a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start of the “Warm-Up”.

**Competition Theme-Music (CTM)** – The UIPM shall provide music to be considered the “competition theme music” (CTM). It is played whenever the LOC wants to have the audience understand that, something is going to happen on the FOP soon. One example of such music is the theme from the global blockbuster movie, “Pirates of the Caribbean” (POC). A 30 second clip of this highly recognizable music should be used at the beginning of any discipline with the intention of getting the attention of the spectators and people in the venue and direct their attention to the FOP.

Examples of Uses of the Competition Theme Music

- **Before the Start of Every Event** – CTM used to draw attention to the FOP that “something is going to happen.”
- **Introductions / Audience Warm-up FBR** – The CTM is played and the announcers come onto the stage and begin “Warm-Up” (see Spectator Warm-Up).
- **Athlete Introduction FBR** – The CTM theme is played at Level 3 as each athlete is introduced and they “hook-up”. The audio level needs to be continually monitored so that when the announcer is speaking the music is heard but not overpowering the speaker and when there is no speaking the music is louder. When the referee extends his arms to say, “Engarde” the music drops to Level 1.
- **When a “hit or touch” is scored and awarded** – The “Winning bout music” provided by the UIPM needs to be loud and immediate after a touch is scored. Think of scoring a football goal. The referee, athlete and fan reaction should be immediate and full of excitement. The selection of music should be very upbeat, rock and roll like the Rolling Stones or something appropriately similar. The music level rises to the loudest (Level 4 or 5) with the hit and is only lowered when the announcer begins to introduce the next athlete Level 3 and the CTM theme is used again. Rehearsal is important and can make this transition seamless.
- **FBR Completion** – When the final match in the FBR has been completed (following fencer #1) the DJ should play “playlist” music while the announcers tell the spectators (Volume Level 3) when the next event (riding) will start and offer any other useful information to the on-site spectators. The music then should be whatever is considered festive by the local population but should continue to maintain the “party” atmosphere created during the riding warmup.
3. SWIMMING

Sport Presentation in swimming is very important to retain the spectators’ interest. In a category A competition there will likely be 6 heats of 6 swimmers per heat for a total of 36 athletes swimming 200 meters freestyle. This means the event itself will only last 20 to 30 minutes. Since the swim itself is rarely exciting until the final 50 meters it is important to maintain a high level of energy in the venue, before during and after the swimming event through good sports presentation.

Venue

The venue will either be indoor or outdoor 25 or 50 meters in length. This matters in terms of acoustics for music and announcements. This should be taken into consideration as sound levels will necessarily need to be adjusted.

Music/DJ

The use of music is very important during the swimming event. A fast-paced playlist should be used and run continuously from just before the arrival of the athletes (so as to create the sense of an “event” when athletes and spectators begin to arrive) through the warm-up and until the competition is ready to begin.

Music should stop when the athletes are called.

During the introduction of Officials and Athletes

When the athletes are called to the “ready area” the music should stop. The announcer will welcome the spectators to the Swimming event.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the (NAME OF COMPETITION) (NAME OF EVENT- Men’s or Women’s final or semi-final) Swimming event, 200 meter freestyle.”

Then, introduce the officials. The announcer will announce, “Ladies and gentlemen, the officials for the Modern Pentathlon swimming event”. The selected music will then play as the officials march to their positions behind each swimming lane. The march music is very important. It should be the same EVERY time there is a march of officials or athletes. The UIPM shall provide appropriate selections to consider especially in consideration of the international broadcast audience. Once the officials are in place the music stops as the announcer introduces the first heat of swimmers.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the swimmers of the first heat of the Modern pentathlon swimming event.”

“In lane 1 representing the United States of America…. Margaux Isaksen”

When the announcer says the words “In lane X” the athlete being named begins to walk through a gate of some type, past the spectators to their appropriate lane. Enough time must be given (usually 5-7 seconds) before announcing the next swimmer. The march music begins again at the beginning for EACH swimmer announced. This is repeated until each athlete is in place. Therefore each athlete is introduced individually.

Note: If the athlete has achieved a very notable result such as World or Olympic medals it is appropriate to say, “In Lane two, representing the Czech Republic, the 2012 Olympic gold medalist, David Svoboda”. This is repeated for each swimming heat.

The selected music will then play as the officials march to their positions behind each swimming lane.

Once the officials are in place the music stops as the announcer introduces the first heat of swimmers.

The march music begins again at the beginning for each swimmer announced.

All music stops and it must be quiet for the start of the race.

During the Race

At the completion of the introductions of each heat of swimmers the announcer will say, “Mr. Starter” which will allow the starter take control of the event. All music stops and it must be quiet for the start. Upon the successful start of the race, the music will begin again (the appropriate music should be very fast-paced) and the announcer should, “call the race” with the intent to generate excitement in the venue.
During the Conclusion of Swimming
Following the conclusion of each heat, the announcer provides the unofficial results (who won and how fast). Following the final heat the announcer states that the swimming competition has concluded and invites everyone to the riding area as well as announcing the expected start time. The music continues as the athletes and spectators depart from the swimming venue.

4. RIDING EVENT

The riding discipline of the Modern Pentathlon, the showjumping event, is elegant and exciting and must be presented that way. It is important to maintain the interest of the audience and their attention between the swimming and entry of the first rider into the competition arena for the showjumping event. This part of sport presentation is called “Continuity” and will be addressed later in this document.

The Venue
The venue is important to sport presentation so that the spectators have a good view of the FOP. There should also be an area centrally located in the FOP where performers may be able to perform in clear view of the audience. This will be addressed in “Continuity”.

The Obstacles
The obstacles or “jumps” should be attractive and creative, well maintained with plants, flowers or other “filler” used for effect and to create a beautiful environment.

Music
This is an important and delicate area for the riding event. Music should be used in the riding venue from the end of the swimming until the first rider is prepared to enter the arena—usually up to one hour depending on distance between venues. The music playlist should be energetic and fast-paced, designed to create a “festive” mood in the riding venue. This music should be played from the arrival of the athletes and spectators (ideally before they arrive so as to create the optimal competition atmosphere) through the walk of the riding course and presentation of horses and while the riders warmup and the first rider is ready to enter the arena. At the appointed time, when the first horse/rider is ready, the “Theme music” is played alerting all that the competition is ready to begin. When the first horse and rider enter the arena, the music should either stop or the sound be lowered dramatically. The music will not be used until the completion of the riding event OR at any time when there is a significant break in the action. For example if there is needed to be a break between rounds or there is a significant problem requiring more than a minute or two to resolve. “Dead air” or “quietness” is the enemy of a competition. Maintaining the attention and interest of the spectators MUST be considered a priority at all times.

ANNOUNCING
The announcer for the riding discipline should be knowledgeable and ideally be positioned next to the judge, scorekeeper and timer so as to communicate these elements to the audience as soon and as accurately as possible.

Entry of the Rider into the Arena
The announcer should announce the name of the athlete entering the arena, the nation which they represent, the name of the horse (and number if known) and any important facts which may be interesting. These may include the current place of the athlete, any notable results, for example, if a World or Olympic medalist or national champion and anything of note regarding the horse. Once the rider has saluted and begun to approach the first obstacle, the announcer should be silent.
**During the Ride**

The announcer should only communicate commands to the rider as directed by the judge once the ride has begun. For example if a rider is excused. This is important so as not to confuse the athlete on course.

**Once the Horse/Rider have Crossed the Finish Line**

Upon the completion of each individual ride, the announcer should once again entertain the spectators. The announcer should state the time on course, any jumping or time penalties as well as the total Pentathlon score for the riding event and the total overall score and current place after three disciplines. In addition, any short, interesting commentary can be made at this time just prior and up until the introduction of the next rider which should be as soon as possible.

**Upon Completion of the Riding Discipline**

Following the final rider, the announcer should provide the overall results before the Combined Event as well as the expected start time for the Combined. All spectators should be encouraged to stay and excitement should be generated by this information. Once the announcements are completed the music should begin again. It should be the same fast-paced, high energy music playlist as has been used throughout the competition.

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**5. THE COMBINED RUNNING AND LASER SHOOTING EVENT**

**The Venue**

For the final event of the Modern Pentathlon the FOP, consisting of the shooting range and running course, must be positioned in such a way as to allow for optimum viewing of the shooting lights and the complete running course. This is an important part of the Sport Presentation of this discipline. In order to create the drama and extreme excitement that this event is capable of generating, the audience should be able to see the entire 800 meter loop.

**The Course and Shooting Range**

As already stated the 800 meter course should be completely visible to spectators. In addition, the finish line should be positioned in front of the most populated part of the spectator area. These elements create the most excitement and interest for spectators.

**Music**

Immediately following the riding discipline the warm-up for the Combined should begin. Music should begin again immediately following the announcing of the final riding results. The music should be fast-paced and full of energy as the athletes begin their warm-up period for the Combined.

The music should continue until approximately one-minute before the start of the Combined, at Level 3 or 4 with the volume being lowered significantly during pre-race announcements made by the Combined event announcer using Level 2 or 3. With approximately one-minute before the start the music is lowered dramatically Level 1 or turned off entirely for the starting commands. When the command to start is given, the music rises to Level 2 or 3 to allow for the announcer to “call the race”. Again, the race music playlist should be very dynamic, fast-paced and designed to elicit excitement from the spectators. Following the finish of the final runner, and the announcer telling the spectators to stay for the awards ceremony, the DJ should raise the volume of the music to Level 3 or 4 (staying with a classic playlist) until the time to begin the awards ceremony.

**Combined Event Announcer/MC**

The announcer for the Combined event is particularly important. Often, the typical spectator at Modern Pentathlon events is not educated to the nuances of the sport. It is the job of the announcer to keep the audience informed of the progression of the race, what “lap” the athletes are on, who is the leader and who is challenging from what position.
In addition, the announcer should build excitement progressively during each shooting series, and provide information to help the spectators appreciate the excitement of the final discipline of the Modern Pentathlon. The Combined event should be explained several times to the audience during warmup. The Combined event is a very exciting discipline, it is partly up to the announcer to translate that to the audience. A race which is called well will have the announcer speaking for majority of the race with fast-paced music playing in the background and with a skilled “DJ” adjusting the volume often during the race.

**ANNOUNCING**

**Prior to the Start**
Advise the athletes and spectators of the time remaining before the start. Keep the audience informed of the leaders, how many seconds separate the top athletes and any information regarding pre-race favorites.

**The Start**
If possible give the countdown to the start (to generate excitement - - 5,4,3,2,1, start). Announce the start of the top athletes.

**During the Race**
The announcer should “call the race” paying particular attention to the leaders and any athletes from the host nation while trying to build excitement as the leaders change—or if there is little movement among the leaders, then calling attention to their shooting and/or running skills.

**The Finish**
As the leaders approach the finish of the Combined, the announcer should build excitement paying particular attention to the leaders but also the host country. In addition, any dramatic advancement or occurrences in the race should be noted. It is traditional to announce the final runner as he or she comes to the finish. Finally, the announcer should tell the audience to stay for the awards ceremony which must begin shortly (5 to 10 minutes is ideal).

**ADDED ELEMENTS**

Each LOC is free to be as creative as possible to make their event as exciting and unique as possible using SP. The finish area of the Combined is one such example. One LOC had the runners finish across the FBR stage. Confetti machines, balloons, large gantries, even pyrotechnics are all possibilities.

**6. THE PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

**Prior to the Ceremony**
The awards ceremony is one of the most formal and scripted events in the competition. It honors the athletes’ achievements. Each LOC will likely have their own unique touches to add to the ceremony but there are some basic protocols which should be followed. First, speed is mandatory and important so as not to lose spectators. To that end, the announcer should work with the LOC to ensure the athletes receiving awards and the official presenters (presenting officials and LOC staff carrying medals and flowers) are assembled in the vicinity of the Awards Presentation Podium in their national uniforms immediately following the Combined event.

**Music**
Once the Athletes and Presenters are assembled, the Announcer welcomes the audience to the presentation of awards and the “awards music” begins. This should be a processional piece and typically would be the “musical theme” of the competition. The athletes and presenters march to their respective positions during this music.
Once the athletes and presenters are in position, the actual awards are presented. This is controlled by the announcer. The awards are presented from last to first (typically 6th place to 1st). Once the gold medal and winner has been presented the announcer will ask the audience to stand for the national anthem of the nation of the winning athlete/team. The DJ should be prepared with all possible national anthems. These anthems should be reviewed by someone knowledgeable prior to the awards ceremony. (There have been very embarrassing cases where the wrong anthem was played).

Following the completion of the awards ceremony, the DJ begins playing the same fast-paced playlist as before while the athletes and spectators leave the venue.

**Announcer**

The announcer’s role during the awards ceremony is to provide information to the audience and to create a dignified ceremony. Once the athletes and presenters are assembled, the announcer should welcome all to the awards ceremony of the competition. He/she should then announce the entry of the athletes and presenters to the presentation area. Once the athletes and presenters are in position, the announcer should announce places 6 through 4 by name and nation and then announce the officials who will be presenting the actual awards. Following the awards to positions 6 through 4, the winner of the bronze medal will be announced followed by the names of the official presenters (medals and flowers). This is repeated through the announcing of the gold medalist. Following the Gold medalist, the announcer requests that the audience stand for the playing of the national anthem of the winning nation. Following the anthem, the announcer recognizes the photo opportunities at the podium and finally concludes the competition.

**OFFICIALS AND PRESENTERS**

**Prior to the Ceremony**

The officials should assemble as quickly as possible in the vicinity of the awards area immediately following the finish of the Combined event. They should line up in order of gold medal presenter (both medal and flowers) first, followed by silver and so on through 4th - 6th place presenter.

**During the Ceremony**

The presenters should wait until called and recognized by the announcer.

**Following the Ceremony**

Presenters should be prepared to stay for the official post-awards photos.

**LOC MEDAL PRESENTERS**

These individuals are typically attractive females and physically carry the awards to be presented. They should assemble immediately following the Combined event in the vicinity of the Awards area. They should march out when the athletes and presenters are announced in order of gold medal to 4th through 6th. They should stand in a position near the award dais so as to easily facilitate the awards presentation.
One of the challenges with presenting the sport of Modern Pentathlon is the fact that the action on the FOP is not continuous. Unlike triathlon or the winter sport of biathlon, which has continuous transitions from one discipline to another, the Pentathlon has breaks following the fencing event and the swimming, riding and Combined events. Even the single stadium concept which most national federations are working towards, still requires breaks in the action following those first three disciplines. Typically the length of time between disciplines is roughly 30 minutes, though organizers are trying to reduce that. Therefore maintaining the continuity of the competition, that is, the interest of the audience while the athletes prepare for their next discipline is critical to the success of the event and sport.

UIPM major competitions organizers have begun to use creative methods to fill the time between disciplines. Examples and suggestions to consider are:

1. Cheerleading performance before, between FBR and before the riding event.
2. Music performed by professional DJ or by live bands and performers.
3. Dancers and Entertainers
4. Video highlights using the competition large screen with or without live commentary.
5. Notable personalities have walked the riding course and explained the key elements of the riding course to the audience prior to the beginning of the ride.
6. Live interview athletes or prominent people.
7. The methods each LOC uses are dependent on the local audience and what is of local interest. The important point is to make the competition more than a competition, it must be an “event”.

As the action on the FOP is not continuous, creative ways to fill the time between disciplines should be explored.
Suggested Sport Presentation Run of Show

UIPM Category A Competition Men’s Finals - Example

This “Run of Show” (flow and text) is provided as a guide and as a suggestion only. Each LOC is encouraged and expected to use their own experience, creativity and ingenuity to create the best “Event” possible for the athletes, spectators, and NFs.

Music/DJ
Announcer/MC
Added Elements
Stage Directions
Video Large Screen
Tip
1. FENCING ROUND ROBIN

**Music/DJ** – Playing Continuously, fast-paced playlist

**Announcer/MC** – Can be used to announce scores and specific bouts

**Added Elements** – LOC determined

**TIP** – Do not spend too many resources here as this is the most difficult to understand and will likely have the fewest spectators.

2. SWIMMING

**Music/DJ** – Playing during warmup, fast-paced playlist. Volume level 2 or 3

**Announcer/MC** – Welcome remarks when the pool is clearing.

“Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to the (name of venue) the home of the Swimming event of the men’s final of the Cairo World Cup of Modern Pentathlon. The athletes will swim 200 meters, 4 lengths of the pool (in a 50 meter pool) in a race against the clock and each other trying to gain as many points as possible. A time of X earns X points with each second faster earning an additional 3 points per second.” We have the top 36 athletes in the world here today and they have been divided into 6 heats based on seed times with the fastest heat swimming last.”

**TIP** – Pay attention that the timing and last minute details are ready (for example the athletes in heat 1 assembled and suits have been checked) before you begin the competition announcements. When all is ready and the officials and athletes have been assembled in the “ready area” you can begin.

**Announcer/MC - The entrance of the officials**

“Ladies and Gentlemen, let’s welcome the officials of the swimming event for the men’s final 200 meter freestyle of the Cairo World Cup of Modern Pentathlon.” - music begins.

**Music/DJ** – Volume Level 3 or 4. Play march music selection for entrance of officials – music should start only after the announcer introduces the action.

**Announce the entrance of the first swimming heat.**

When the officials are in position, then announce the entrance of the first swimming heat, “Ladies and Gentlemen the swimmers of heat 1 of the men’s 200 meter freestyle.”

**Music/DJ** – March music selection begins and continues until all swimmers are in position behind their appointed starting blocks.

**Music Stops**

**Announcing each swimmer by lane and by name and nation.**

When the swimmers are positioned behind their starting blocks announce each swimmer, their lane number and their nation and if the athlete is notable (Olympic or World Champion or world record holder in this event) this may be mentioned.

“In lane 2, representing Austria, Thomas Daniel”

Give the athlete a second to acknowledge the crowd usually by waving his hand. Then continue.

“In lane 3, representing the Czech Republic, the 2012 Olympic champion, David Svoboda”. Etc.

Each heat is introduced the same, except in the final heat you may say, “This is the final heat of today’s swimming event and these are the fastest swimmers based on seed times.”
**Announcing the Race**

After the final swimmer of each heat is announced, you may turn the race over to the starter by announcing, “Mr. Starter.”

At this time it must be very quiet for the start.

**Music/DJ** – When the gun starts the race immediately begin the race music – very exciting and fast-paced. Once the race begins and the music starts again, the announcer should wait until all the athletes have swum about 20 meters and then call the race. Here are some suggested text/methods;

**TIP** – In order to maintain continuity in calling the race and given that it takes about 30 seconds per length, you should wait until the swimmers are almost half-way down the first length (20 meters) before you start calling the race.

“...”

When all athletes have finished ask the swimmers to clear the pool for the next heat.

**Announcer/MC/ Music/ DJ - Announce the entrance of next heat – repeat as above for all heats until finished**

Following the final heat you may announce the pool is open for warm-down and then announce conclusion and place and start-time of the next event.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the swimming event of the men’s final here in Cairo, Egypt. Join us next for the Fencing Bonus Round to begin at (state time) in the (name of venue) as we continue towards the podium in this World Cup 2 of Modern Pentathlon of the 2015 season in Cairo, Egypt.”

**Added Elements at swimming venue** – LOC determined

**Continuity between the Swimming and Fencing Bonus Round - LOC Determined**

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**3. FENCING BONUS ROUND**

**Music/DJ** – Begin Music as athletes and spectators arrive at venue. Volume Level 3 or 4.

**Video Large Screen** – Playing highlight videos if possible, if not, then whatever Pentathlon related videos may be acquired.

**TIP** – It is very important to set the competition mood properly by using the large video screen and music. If you have vendors selling food, make sure there is the smell of food in the air, as collectively this creates a “festive” atmosphere.
**SPORT PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**

**Announcer/MC – Audience Warm-Up FBR**

Once the audience begins to be seated, and the athletes are getting dressed the announcer(s) may begin a 5 to 10 minute audience “warm-up” as athletes prepare. Timing is important, not too much and not too little. This is a good time to introduce any dignitaries in the audience (they can stand up and/or wave). Suggested topics are “information about the history and importance of Modern Pentathlon” keep it brief and interesting. If there is a person from the LOC who wants to speak to the crowd, this is a good time. Videos should be cued up and timed with the person running the video stream to the large screen. Suggested text and show is as follows.

**Video Large Screen – Plays event logo (still)**

**Announcer(s) walk onto the stage/piste**

“Hi Ladies and Gentlemen, I’m (announcer’s name) and I joined by (introduce 2nd MC if using) and welcome to the fencing bonus round of the Modern Pentathlon World Cup in beautiful Cairo, Egypt. While the athlete’s are preparing we want to take you on a journey to the roots of one of the most exciting and difficult events on the Olympic program, the Modern Pentathlon, the Olympic test of the “most complete athlete of the Olympic Games”.”

Provide brief explanation of how the sport was created. When it appears that the first athletes are ready then begin the actual FBR program.

“The top athletes in the world in the sport of Modern Pentathlon (MP) are competing in the 2nd stop of the UIPM World Cup series tour of MP.”

**Video Large Screen – begin World Cup Series Tour Stop video (showing the four cities).**

**Announcer/MC – speaks to video**

“The athletes started this year’s series in the USA in Sarasota, Florida, then they crossed the Atlantic to be here in Cairo, Egypt and will go north to Rome for their 3rd stop, then Budapest for the 4th World Cup and finally the best athletes will make it the Minsk, Belarus and the World Cup Final event. That’s what all these great athletes are competing for today—trying to be crowned World Cup Champion and qualify for the World Cup Final.”

“What you will see here in just a moment is the fencing bonus round. What exactly is the FBR? Let’s explain what you will see next.”

**Video Large-Screen – Begin FBR explanation video.**

**Announcer(s) explain bonus round following the video prompt.**

**Announcer(s) after explanation, announcer(s) say,**

“It looks like our first pair are ready so let’s bring them up and get started.” (with enthusiasm)

**Music/DJ – Cues “Competition Theme Music” volume level 3 or 4 as the first pair prepares to be introduced.**

**Announcer/MC – Introduces first athlete pair.**

**TIP** - The athletes should be stopped just before walking onto the piste waiting to hear their names to proceed. Music drops to volume Level 3

**Announcer/MC – “We have representing, Chile, Esteban Bustos”**
TIP — It is best if 2 announcers are present to go back and forth announcing name and nation. For example, Announcer 1 – All the way from South America we have, from Chili…..Announcer 2 “Esteban Bustos!”

“And his opponent from Great Britain, James Cook.”

Video Large Screen – Streaming Video of the webcast.

Stage Direction Athletes – Step onto the piste and hook-up themselves or with assistance making sure to acknowledge the crowd.

TIP – It is very important that the athletes take a second or two and acknowledge the audience, by waving, saluting or whatever they choose.

Stage Direction Referee – Takes control of match – begins match

Music/DJ – Reduces volume to 1 or 2

Announcer/MC – Carefully calls the match building tension and excitement. The announcer may speak about each fencers background, may speak about what is happening on the piste (but extreme caution must be taken not to favor one athlete over another).

TIP – One effective method to build tension is to announce the time from 30 seconds in increments, 30, 20, 15, 10 and count down at 5 watching the clock closely 5,4,3,2,1… Also, make everything simple for the uninitiated spectator, you can say “Bustos from Chili looking for the red light and Cook from Great Britain needs the green light.”

Referee – Awards hit and victory.

Music/DJ – Music rises very loud with the hit.

TIP – When the hits is scored the announcer should speak loudly and excitedly like a football announcer does when a goal is scored. “It’s Chili with the victory!”

Announcer/MC – Excitedly announces winner can make very brief comments.

“It’s Chili !!!! Esteban Bustos has done it! Bustos has one victory and that brings him one second closer to the podium, can he keep it going?”

Music/DJ – Lowered by 25% and then Competition theme music begins and music volume rises

Announcer/MC – Introduces the next athlete from the bonus round

“So lets say goodbye to Great Britain and welcome, from France, Valentine Prades!!” Repeat for 35 matches

Announcer/MC – Following the last match, introduce the award and presenter for the winner of the FBR.

Music/DJ – Continues at Volume Level 2.

Announcer/MC – Announces draw for horses, introduces leaders after two disciplines.

Music/DJ – Music level rises to level 3 as athletes walk the ride course

Added Elements – LOC determined

Continuity between FBR and Riding disciplines – LOC Determined

This must last for up to 30 minutes. This and the before the Combined are the two most important place for continuity. It is very easy to lose spectators if they are not kept engaged and entertained. Great effort and care should be used to accomplish this.
4. RIDING/SHOWJUMPING DISCIPLINE

Music/DJ – Competition “theme” music played to call attention that the riding event is about to start.

Video Large Screen – Highlight video and leaderboard after two disciplines and the FBR.

Announcer/MC – Welcomes audience to the riding event, give standings and provides basic information about the ride. This should include how many horses, how many obstacles, how many rounds and how each rider was assigned which horse. Where is the start and finish of the course. What is the time allowed on course and what the point deductions are for penalties on the course and how that relates to the overall Pentathlon score. When the announcer sees that the first horse is ready he makes sure the DJ is ready to begin.

TIP – It is very helpful if the announcer/MC and the DJ can be located together and very close or with the judge/timekeeper as they need the information in order to announce the outcome quickly and to give the rider any commands directed by the judge.

Music/DJ – Plays entrance music for the first horse/rider until they stop in the arena. Then stop music.

Announcer/MC – Introduce rider, nation, horse and horse number and any basic interesting info such as if the rider was a World Champion etc.

"We have our first horse and rider in the arena, Esteban Bustos, representing Chili, he is up on horse number 4, Caballero, a 12 year old gelding. Esteban was the bronze medalist in the 2011 Pan American Games."

Video Large Screen – Shows streaming video of ride.

From this point forward (until the end of the total riding event) music is only used if there is a long lapse between horses or rounds (more than 1 or 2 minutes). Announcer/MC must pay close attention to the judges and only make announcements as requested while a horse and rider are on-course.

Announcer/MC – Following the completion of each individual ride, the time on course, any jumping and time penalties and overall score and position/ranking are announced.

"For Esteban Bustos representing Chili and Caballero, a time on course of 1 minute 12 seconds, 6 time penalties and 14 jumping penalties for a Pentathlon ride score of 280 points and a total Pentathlon score after three disciplines of 790 points putting him currently in first place."

Video Large Screen – Picture of the athlete and point totals shown

Announcer/MC – Introduces the next rider and horse.

"Next into the arena we have James Cook of Great Britain riding horse number 7, Beau Rivage, a 9 year old mare. James was the winner of the first world cup of the season in Sarasota, Florida."

This is repeated for all 36 rides.

Added Elements – LOC determined

Announcer/MC – Following the completion of the final ride, the leaders of the ride and overall leaders are announced and the start time of the Combined is given.

"This concludes today’s riding event, our winner of todays ride was Alexander Lesun with a perfect ride score of 300 and the fastest time on course of 59.7 seconds."
“Our leaders after three disciplines are in third position, Adam Morosi of Hungary with 812 Pentathlon points, and in second position David Svoboda of the Czech Republic with 827 Pentathlon points and our leader after three events with only the Combined remaining is Amro El Geziry of Egypt with 840 Pentathlon points. El Geziry will be the first runner off in the Combined which will take place in just 30 minutes at (name venue). It is sure to be an exciting finish with the athletes so close to each other. Can El Geziry hold on to his lead or will another athlete reach the top of the podium today?”

Continuity between Ride and Combined Events – LOC Determined (30 min)

The Continuity between the ride and Combined is critical to maintain spectator engagement and entertainment or many will leave. 30 minutes is a long time to wait for the next event so it is up to the LOC to keep the audience interested through Continuity and added elements.

5. COMBINED EVENT

Music/DJ – The music is played during the Combined warmup at level 3 or 4 and begins immediately after the riding is concluded.

Announcer/MC – Initial Combined event commentary. Immediately after the riding, as the athletes are preparing to warmup for the Combined, the announcer should explain to the audience how exactly the Combined event is run.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, the final event of today’s Modern Pentathlon is the Combined Event. The “Combined” combines the running and laser shooting disciplines into a single event. Each athlete must run from the start to the shooting range, pick up their pistol and hit the target 5 times. Each hit is indicated by a green light, misses are flashing red. An athlete has 50 seconds to complete this and can shoot as many shots as needed—though most of our athletes will shoot less than 30 seconds and some even less than 10 seconds. After 5 hits have been recorded each athlete will leave the range and run an 800 meter course around the venue and back to the shooting range for their second series. Each athlete must complete 4 shooting series and 4 x 800 meter loops with the final 800 meters to the finish line. Since the athletes are handicapped based on the points they have earned in the first 3 disciplines, the first athlete to cross the finish line will be our World Cup Champion.”

Announcer/MC – Provide periodic updates on the start time of the event and the leaders to watch.

“The Combined event will start at 4:00 PM- 20 minutes to start. Our leaders after 3 events are Amro El Geziry from Egypt is the first runner off, he’s followed by the Czech Republic’s David Svoboda 13 seconds behind and starting third is Adam Morosi from Hungary 28 seconds behind our leader.”

Video Large Screen – Plays highlights

Music/DJ – With 3 minutes to start the DJ plays the Competition “Theme” music

Announcer/MC – Call athletes to the start area and clear the FOP of all coaches etc. Repeats the opening announcement describing the Combined event to the audience.

Music/DJ – Music lowered to level 2

Announcer/MC – Calls the start and then calls the race

Music/DJ – Music rises to level 3 and moves between level 3 and 4 depending on speaking by Announcer/MC
Announcer/MC Calling the Combined – If possible, use a countdown for the final 5 or 10 seconds from the start (5, 4, 3, 2, 1). This engages the audience with the start. Then, be sure to announce the first 5 to 10 athletes as they start, any host nation athletes and any notable athletes who may have a chance to challenge for the podium (such as Laura Asadauskaitė who has run from 20th or more to 1st).

Carefully call the number of hits for various athletes to inform and excite the audience. For example, “Svoboda has 3 hits, now 4 and 5 and he’s off for his 3rd 800 meter loop with Hungary’s Adam Morosi just behind.”

TIP – It is very important to be correct when announcing what series an athlete is shooting (whether 1, 2, 3, 4) as well as which loop an athlete is running (1, 2, 3, 4) as we have learned that the athletes listen to the announcer and if poor information is given then the athletes could suffer.

Announcer/MC Race Finish – Calling the race finish requires paying attention to the top athletes and the host nation as well as notable finishes. For example, “With 200 meters to go it’s Svoboda in front with Adam Morosi 2 strides behind…..Svoboda and Morosi…Morosi making a move, it’s a sprint to the finish…Sovoboda and Morosi…..Svoboda and Morosi and it’s David Svoboda, from Czech Republic our World Cup champion with Adam Morosi taking the silver and …..”

Additional Elements – LOC determined (can be anything that adds excitement to the race finish).

TIP – Pay attention to the final runners as the audience enjoys cheering for the last runners to finish. Continue announcing the rest of the finishers until all athletes have completed their race.

Following the race finish.

Announcer/MC – Announces time of the Awards ceremony

“Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes today’s Modern Pentathlon men’s final. In just a few minutes we will have the medal ceremony (state where) for these great athletes.”

Music/DJ – Plays music at level 4 or 5 while Awards preparation is made

Continuity between Combined and Awards – LOC determined - Not much time here. Good music is likely enough.

6. AWARDS CEREMONY

Once the athletes and presenters are assembled—it must happen quickly—the attention is brought back to the FOP by the Competition “Theme” music being played.

Music/DJ – Competition “Theme” music played

Video Large Screen – Either competition highlights or screen-saver beauty shot (can be competition logo, or an iconic image of the competition etc.)

Announcer/MC – Welcomes audience to the Awards Ceremony.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Medal Ceremony of the 2015 Cairo World Cup of Modern Pentathlon. Please welcome our medalists and the presenters.”
Music/DJ – Begins Medal Ceremony March music (only need 15 to 30 seconds).
Stage Direction – Athletes and Presenters march to their appointed place.

Music/DJ – Music stops when athletes and presenters are in place for awards.
Announcer/MC – Announces awards 4-6 and the presenters.

“In 6th place Illiya Frolov, representing Russia, in 5th place (state name and nation) in 4th pace (state name and nation). Presenting the prize money UIPM treasurer, John Helmick and presenting the flowers, President of the Egyptian MP federation, Sharif…”

Wait until all the awards and flowers are distributed then continue.

“In 3rd place and the winner of the bronze medal, from Egypt, Amro El Geziry!

TIP – When announcing the winners of the medals, in order to build suspense, say the nation first before you say the athlete’s name—the audience will begin cheering from the name of the nation. Continue.

“Presenting the medal will be UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang and presenting the flowers, the President of the Egyptian MP federation.”

TIP – When a host nation athlete wins a medal, be sure that someone from the LOC is part of the presentation. Continue.

“ In 2nd place the winner of the silver medal, representing Hungary, Adam Morosi! And presenting the medal, UIPM VP Joel Bouzou and presenting the flowers, Kevin Smith, marketing director of New Balance athletic shoes.”

TIP – Always include sponsors in award presentations when possible.

Wait for medal to be presented and presenters to return to position.

“And in 1st place, our champion and gold medalist, representing the Czech Republic, David Svoboda! Presenting the gold medal, UIPM President, Dr. Klaus Schormann assisted by the Egyptian Minister of Defense, Ahmad Garou. Presenting the flowers, UIPM first Vice President Ivar Sisniega and LOC chairman and UIPM executive board member, Samy Awad.”

TIP – For the gold medal, the highest ranking individuals should award the medal and flowers. It is permissible and often necessary to have more than one person presenting the gold medal and more than one person to present the flowers for the gold medal. Be sure and include all relevant titles for the presenters. This is to impress the audience with who is presenting.

When the presenters have returned to their positions, continue.

“Ladies and gentlemen, please stand for the national anthem of the Czech Republic.”

Music/DJ – Play appropriate anthem.

TIP – Be CERTAIN the anthem you are using is the correct one for that nation. There have been embarrassing situations when a mistake was made. Ask someone from the nation to listen and approve if there is any question. Also, do not let the anthem go on too long. Know when to stop. Some anthems have many verses, one verse is enough.
Additional Elements – LOC dependent. Some LOC’s use an honor guard to raise the flags. It is important to try and have 3 flags on poles or you can use the large video screen.

Music/DJ - Following anthem, begin to play “festive” music at level 3 or 4 as athletes and audience take photos, do interviews and depart

Announcer/MC – Close the competition and welcome all to the next UIPM event

End Run of Show
Suggested Sport Presentation Script

NOTES TO ANNOUNCING

Objectives
The key objectives of the competition announcer are to Educate, Instruct and Excite the audience. To pace the competition through its various stages including athlete introductions, warm-ups, competition progress, delays and gaps in the action and results.

Style and Tone
Announcers should adopt a warm, friendly tone. Your rapport with the spectators is important in setting a positive, enjoyable atmosphere throughout the competition. It is important to show excitement during exciting moments in the action as your excitement is contagious to the audience.

Approach
Do not show or imply bias towards any particular team, individual or nationality. Don’t talk over the audience when they are in full cheer. In the case of emergency, speak in a clear, calm, voice. Do not make negative or derogatory comments about athletes, individuals, teams, nationalities or brands.

Remember that sponsorship is the life-blood of sporting events. Always when appropriate mention the sponsors. Less can be more.

Generally, dead-air (no speaking) is a dead-event. It is your job to keep the audience engaged and excited – even when the action is less than exciting. However, less can be more. There are times when it is appropriate not to talk.

Start Lists
It is critically important that you have the most current Event Start Lists and printed results for all stages and disciplines of the competition. Please ensure that you have this information before each discipline and that they are accurate and in order.

You are responsible for checking that you have this information and informing the LOC what you require. Generally the IT person or competition manager on-site can provide this to you.

Professionalism
In general, please do not reference problem areas of the competition, particularly if there are any technical problems. It is very possible that most people won’t notice if you do not point it out.

Multiple Languages
For international UIPM Category A competitions the announcers shall speak first in English and then, if available, in the local language. It is critically important that the announcers be able to speak in clear, unaccented, correct English. This is important for the broadcast element of the event in addition for the benefit of the various foreign teams in attendance who may not understand the local language. The local language is spoken primarily to inform local spectators who may not understand English.
UILPM SUGGESTED SPORT PRESENTATION SCRIPT

General Welcome – To be said at the beginning of the competition. Several minutes (3-4) before the start of the first event.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the ___________ (year ie., 2016) ___________ (competition name and event, ie., World Cup #3, Men’s Final) of Modern Pentathlon, in ___________ (city and country, ie., Rome, Italy). Each athlete will compete in the five disciplines of the Modern Pentathlon, swimming, fencing, riding, running and laser-pistol shooting. In just a few hours we will have a new ___________ (event designation, ie., World Cup #3) champion!

EVENT SCRIPT - SWIMMING

Open the pool for warm up – and close five minutes before the start of heat 1.

“Athletes and coaches the pool is open for warm-up”

“Athletes and coaches the pool is now closed, please clear the pool.”

Opening Welcome – 1 minute before start time of Heat 1 following warm-up.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the ___________ (year ie., 2016) ___________ (competition name and event, ie., World Cup #3, Men’s Final) of Modern Pentathlon, in ___________ (city and country, ie., Rome, Italy). The first discipline is the Men’s Swimming event, a 200 meter freestyle, 4 lengths of the pool. Athletes are seeded into heats according to their fastest official time this year—with the fastest seeded swimmers racing in the final heat. Pentathlon points are earned for each second faster than 2:30.00.”
Introduction of the Officials – Swimming

“Ladies and Gentlemen, Introducing the officials for today’s swimming event”

“The Referees”
Introduce Referee 1 __________________
Introduce Referee 2 __________________

“The Starter”
Introduce Starter ____________________

Athlete Introductions - Swimming
In UIPM Category A competitions, athletes will be introduced one by one as they go to their assigned lane.

“And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, the athletes for heat number ___________ (insert heat # ie., heat #1) insert event__________ (ie., Men’s 200 meter freestyle)

TIP - Pause for Effect

“In Lane ___________ (insert lane # ie., lane 1) representing ___________ (insert nation) ___________ (insert athlete name ie., Valentine Prades). “

TIP - Pause for Effect - allowing the athlete to acknowledge the crowd and the time to be at least halfway to his assigned lane before you introduce swimmer #2.

Repeat until all swimmers are introduced. Once all swimmers are behind their lanes you may turn control of the competition over to the starter by announcing,

“Mr. Starter”

TIP - The starter will then blow a whistle and give the commands to start the race. Once the race has begun, wait until the athletes reach approximately the 20 meter mark and then begin to call the race. Also, be sure the DJ is playing UIPM “race music” as soon as the race starts.
Suggestions for calling the swimming race – it is important to talk during majority of the race trying to build excitement for the spectators and avoid “dead-air.”

- “It is a fair start for heat number 1, men’s 200 meter freestyle, 4 lengths of the pool. Our early leader in lane 4 from Egypt is…..”
- “At 50 meters our leaders are....”
- “As they approach the 100 meter mark, our leader is_________ closely followed by______ from________ (insert nation)”
- “With less than 2 laps remaining it’s still _______ (insert athletes and nation)”
- “At the final turn it’s_____ (insert athletes and nation) with _____ (insert name/nation) close behind. It’s a dead heat for_______ (insert place)
- “They are stroke for stroke. Only 15 meters to go, ____ (insert athlete/nation) giving it everything_____ (he/she) has!”
- “5 meters to the wall, and it’s _________ (insert athlete/nation) taking the win with __________ (insert athlete/nation) in 2nd and ______ (insert athlete/nation) in 3rd.

**TIP** - Continue calling places as athletes finish especially the close races even the fight for last place. When the last swimmer finishes you may announce;

- “A great first race of the competition”
- “That concludes heat # ________ (insert heat #) swimmers please clear the pool.”
- “Unofficially, the results for heat #__________ (insert heat #) are__________ (insert results from first to third and any other notable result).”

It is important to state that the results are unofficial until certified by the technical delegate.

**TIP** - When the pool is cleared and you are given a signal from the swimming director letting you know everything is ready (judges and officials are ready, timers ready and the next heat of athletes assembled) you may begin to introduce the athletes of the next heat. - Repeat for all remaining swimming heats.
At the conclusion of the final heat you may announce:

“Ladies and gentlemen this concludes the swimming event of the ________ (insert name of event ie., Men’s final) please join us as ________ (insert name of competition ie., World Cup #3) continues with our next discipline, the ________ (insert name of next discipline ie., round-robin fencing) taking place at__________ (insert name of venue) and is scheduled to start at__________ (insert start time).

Then announce that the pool is open for warm-down (if it is).

“Athletes, the pool is now open for warm-down, the fencing event will begin at __________ (insert start time and location)”

EVENT SCRIPT - FENCING ROUND ROBIN

The announcer should announce the start of warm-up for the fencing event. Lively music should be playing throughout the warm-up.

Opening Welcome – 5 minutes before start time following warm-up.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the ________ (year ie., 2016) ________ (competition name and event, ie., World Cup #3, Men’s Final) of Modern Pentathlon, in ________ (city and country, ie., Rome, Italy). The second discipline is the Men’s Round-Robin fencing event, where each athlete will fight every other athlete in the competition in a one-touch epee match with a one-minute maximum time limit, with each victory earning valuable points, towards the title of ________ (insert event champion title ie., World Cup Champion)”

TIP - Once the athletes and officials are assembled, the fencing director will signal the announcer to begin the introduction of athletes and officials.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, introducing the athletes and officials for the__________ (insert event name ie., Men’s Final) fencing event.”
Athletes and Officials march to the center of the room for introduction.

"Introducing the Director of fencing"

Introduce Director.

"Introducing the fencing officials"

Introduce each referee (insert name and nation ie., “From Egypt, Walid Sayed)"

Following the introduction of the referees and officials, introduce the participating athletes.

"Ladies and Gentlemen introducing the athletes for the______ (insert event, ie., Men’s final round-robin fencing)."

TIP - Pause for Effect

“Representing__________ (insert nation and then name of athlete)”

Allow time for the athlete to acknowledge/salute the spectators then continue to the next athlete.

“From__________ (insert name and nation)”

TIP - Continue until all athletes have been introduced. Upon completion, while the athletes are getting their equipment, announce the piste assignments.

“On piste (insert number or letter ie.,1) (insert nation vs nation ie., Italy vs Germany)".

“On piste (insert number or letter ie.,2) (insert nation vs nation ie., Mixed 1 vs Russia)".
Continue until all pistes and teams are announced.

Announce the Round-Robin Fencing overview.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, in the Round-Robin Fencing event, every athlete will fight against every other athlete in the field, with an electric epee, for one hit or touch. Hits may be scored on ANY part of the body and result in a victory. There is a 1 minute time limit. If no fencer has a victory in the time allowed, both fencers receive a defeat. Double touches where both fencers hit at the same time, are not scored in Pentathlon fencing. Pentathlon points are awarded for each victory."

**TIP** - For the round-robin fencing it is not necessary to talk continuously. It is the responsibility of the organizer to create the atmosphere through music, occasional announcing of the leader board and announcing of specific, notable bouts (usually local or well-known and decorated athletes).

At the conclusion of the final bout for the round-robin fencing event the announcer may announce the results both the individual round-robin fencing and the overall leader after 2 disciplines.

"The winner of the fencing event with _______ victories (insert number of victories) is_______ (insert name and nation) in second position with _____ victories (insert number of victories) is _______ (insert name and nation)"

Continue announcing results through at least the top three, more if time allows. Then announce the overall results (leader board) after 2 disciplines.

"After the swimming and fencing disciplines our leader is ____ (insert name and nation) with ____ (insert number of points) Pentathlon points. Followed by in second position by ____ (insert name and nation) with X pentathlon points (insert number of points)."

**TIP** - Continue through at least the top five positions, then announce the conclusion of the second discipline (ie., round-robin fencing event).

"Ladies and gentlemen this concludes the round-robin fencing event of the ________ (insert name of event ie., Men’s final) please join us as ___________ (insert name of competition ie., World Cup #3) continues with our next discipline, the exciting ____________ (insert name of next discipline ie., Fencing Bonus Round) taking place at____________ (insert name of venue) and is scheduled to start at____________ (insert start time)."
EVENT SCRIPT - FENCING BONUS ROUND

**TIP** - The Fencing Bonus Round can be one of the most exciting elements of the Modern Pentathlon. Designed and created to offer an opportunity for spectators to “meet” each athlete, on the Bonus Round “stage”, one by one as the Bonus Round ladder progresses in single elimination bouts from 36th position to 1st. This is a chance for stars to be created as athletes interact with the enthusiasm of the crowd. It is not surprising that much of that enthusiasm, and therefore much of the success of the Bonus Round, is generated by the ability of the announcer to engage and excite the audience.

Fencing Bonus Round – In the beginning

The announcer should coordinate with the LOC staff to ensure that the athletes are assembled in the “call area”. If all the athletes are not ready, you can begin as long as the first 5 or 6 (bottom 6 athletes) are prepared.

DJ cues music and Announcer steps onto Bonus Round Stage

"Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Fencing Bonus Round of the Modern Pentathlon. This is an exciting addition to the sport as each athlete has been ranked from 1 to 36 based on the results of the Round-Robin fencing just completed. Now the athletes will have the opportunity to earn precious bonus points as they fight their way up the ladder of the Bonus Round."

"The first two athletes, ranked 36 and 35 will start. Their match is only for one-touch, anywhere on the body. The winner will advance and face the 34th ranked fencer. This continues all the way to NUMBER ONE!" They have 45 seconds to score and if time runs out before someone scores a victory, then the higher ranked fencer is ruled the winner and continues on."

"So let’s get started -- Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome our first two athletes, ranked number 36 and representing___________ (insert nation), ______________ (insert name)"

**TIP** - Pause 2-3 seconds to allow the first fencer to salute the crowd – then continue and introduce his/her opponent.

And his/her opponent, ranked number ___________ (insert ranked result) representing ______________________ (insert nation), ____________ (insert name)."

**TIP** - The competing athletes as they are introduced should acknowledge the crowd, while the DJ should play the UIPM approved music for the entry of the athletes.
The announcer should say something interesting about the life or career of the athletes while they are preparing—only one or two very brief comments. Once the athletes are ready, the referee/judge will take control and start the match (with absolute quiet for the start) and then raise the music volume should then be raised to background levels.

Commentary should be made once the bout begins. Usually the announcer can remind the crowd which athlete by name and/or nation is on the left and right side. Good announcers will find something to say which engages and informs the audience without favoring either opponent.

When a single hit or touch occurs, the announcer should say the winner in a very excited tone. Examples are,

- “And it’s a hit for Ireland!”
- “The Irish do it!”
- “Ireland wins!”
- “Ireland gets the victory!”

**TIP** - The DJ will play Fencing Bonus Victory music as the athletes shake hands and the loser unhooks. As the loser begins to leave, the announcer should introduce the next athlete,

> “And we say thank you to________ (insert name/nation) and we bring up our next fencer ranked number________ (insert ranking round number) representing_______ (insert nation) _______ (insert athlete name)!”

**TIP** - Repeat this process making modifications to keep the announcing “fresh and different.”

When a double touch does occur, inform the audience that a double touch does not count.

> “It’s a double touch, nothing done as double hits do not count in Pentathlon fencing.”

**TIP** - There will likely be situations during the bouts which will provide an opportunity to educate the audience on the nuances of our sport. Take advantage of these opportunities. Remember that often the audiences are not experts and will be interested in the information. Examples where explanation is helpful are:

- Double touches, lights going off due to grounding problems, situations where a judge doesn’t award a hit because of a rule violation (turning the back, second action etc.).
**TIP** - At the conclusion of the Fencing Bonus Round the announcer should recap the results.

"The winner of the Fencing Bonus rounds is, representing _______ (insert nation) __________ (insert athlete name)."

Then announce the overall results after two events.

"After two disciplines the leaders of the competition are, in first place, with _______ (announce point total) representing__________________ (insert nation), __________ (insert athlete name). In second position with __________ (announce point total) representing__________________ (insert nation), __________ (insert athlete name). In third position..."

**TIP** - Continue for as much time as you have to fill but at least the top five places. Then announce the draw for horses which takes place immediately after the bonus round is completed. The first place athlete after two disciplines draws for horses, all the other athletes are assigned horses randomly based on the number which the leader draws.

**EVENT SCRIPT - RIDING**

"Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn your attention to the __________ (announce location where the draw will occur... usually in the center of the arena). You are about to witness a great tradition in the sport of Modern Pentathlon, the draw for horses. The leader in the competition after 2 disciplines __________ (insert athlete name) from __________ (insert nation) will now draw by random lot the number of the horse he/she will ride in the competition."

The leading athlete then draws a number corresponding to the name of a horse.

"He/she has drawn number______ (insert number drawn)."

"Number _____ is ______ (insert horse name). The rest of the athletes will be assigned horses randomly based on the number of the first horse drawn. The first rider will enter the warm-up arena at _____ (insert mount time) and the competition will begin at______ (insert start time)."
TIP - There will be a break of at least 20 minutes until the competition resumes while the athletes change and begin warm-up for the riding event.

There may be a presentation of the horses. If this is the case, the announcer must announce the number of each horse and its' name as the riding official directs. The horse will then be “jogged” for soundness and the announcer will announce the next horse as directed.

The break is also a good opportunity for the announcer to make announcements promoting the LOC and sponsorship, explaining the riding event and overall sport of Modern Pentathlon, the current standings after 2 disciplines and any other announcements.

Upon resuming the competition the announcer begins the riding event.

The showjumping (riding discipline) of Modern Pentathlon (begin announcing about 2 minutes before the official start time).

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we are about ready to begin the third discipline of today’s Modern Pentathlon competition, the riding event. The riding discipline is carried out over a show-jumping course measuring 350-400 meters with 12 numbered obstacles with a maximum height of 120cm including a double and a triple combination fence. Horses have been assigned to the athletes by random draw and each athlete will have 20 minutes in the warm-up area and is allowed 5 practice jumps to familiarize themselves with the animal before proceeding to the competition arena. This discipline is a test of the rider’s ability to adapt to an unknown horse and navigate a show-jumping course. Not an easy task.

The scoring is based on a 300 point scale. Athletes enter the arena with 300 points and points are deducted through penalties. Standard penalties are for example, a knockdown is a deduction of 7 points and a refusal or disobedience such as a fall is a 10 point deduction with time penalties assessed at 1 penalty point per second over the time allowed to complete the course. The time allowed for today’s course is ____ (insert time allowed). Each point is critical to win the overall Modern Pentathlon competition. In the final event, the Combined, athletes are handicapped based on how many points they have after three disciplines. Each single point is equal to one second of handicap starting behind the leader—so you can understand how important these points are."

The First rider enters the arena.

"We welcome our first rider in the competition, currently in 36th place after 2 disciplines, representing _____ (insert nation) _______ (insert athlete name) he/she’s riding_______ (insert horse name)."

The athlete salutes and the judge will signal the athlete to begin.
TIP - When the athlete finishes their round, the announcer will announce the time on course, the time penalties (if any), the jumping penalties (if any) then the riding score, the overall score after 3 events and the place the athlete is in currently.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, for _______ (insert athlete name) on _______ (insert horse name) a time on course of _______ (insert time) _______ time penalties (insert time penalties), _______ jumping penalties (insert jumping penalties) for a Pentathlon riding score of _______ (insert ride score) and an overall score after 3 disciplines of _______ (insert overall score after 3 disciplines) putting him/her in _______ place (insert current place after 3 disciplines).

The next rider is now entering the arena.

“We welcome the next rider in the arena, currently in 35th place, representing _______ (insert nation) _______ (insert athlete name) he’s/she’s riding _______ (insert horse name).”

TIP - Repeat riding discipline script through all remaining athletes. Periodically announce how many riders remaining and any interesting information about the horses or athletes—be sure to do it briefly as you should not speak once the rider approaches the first obstacle.

When the final rider enters the arena announce,

“Please welcome the final rider in today’s competition, currently in 1st place after 2 disciplines, representing _______ (insert nation) _______ (insert athlete name) he’s/she’s riding _______ (insert horse name).”

If a rider scores a perfect score of 300 points, announce excitedly.

“It’s a clean round for _______ (insert athlete name) on _______ (insert horse name) a perfect Pentathlon riding score of 300 points.”

Then announce their overall score and position.

TIP - Announcers for the riding discipline should always be prepared to announce any information to the athletes as may be requested by the judges. For example, for a rider to continue or to be excused. The announcer provides the communication between the judge and the athletes.
When the riding discipline is completed announce,

“This concludes the riding discipline of the today’s Modern Pentathlon, our leader after the first 3 disciplines of swimming, fencing and riding is _______ (insert leader name) from _______ (insert leader nation) with _______ (insert current overall Pentathlon point total) Pentathlon points. In 2nd position is _______ (insert name and nation, point total after three disciplines).”

TIP - Continue through top six places—more if time permits but never more than 10. Begin pre-event announcing of the Combined event immediately following the completion of the riding discipline.

EVENT SCRIPT - COMBINED EVENT

“Ladies and Gentlemen, the final event of the Modern Pentathlon is the exciting Combined event. Combining the disciplines of running and pistol shooting. Today’s Combined event will begin at _______ (insert start time). Athlete’s, the running course and shooting range are open for warm-up.”

TIP - There will be a break of some minutes before the start of the Combined event while the athlete’s prepare. This is a good opportunity for the announcer to announce the current standings after 3 disciplines and any other items which the LOC would like announced. The Combined event overview should also be announced several times during the break.

Combined Event Overview

“Ladies and Gentlemen, the final event of the Modern Pentathlon is the exciting Combined event -- Combining the disciplines of running and pistol shooting. The athletes will start using a “handicap system”. Whereby the athlete with the most points after the first 3 disciplines of swimming, fencing and riding starts first. The remaining athletes start with a time handicap behind the leader – one second for every 1 Modern Pentathlon point. The Combined event consists of a short run from the start line to the shooting area (identify where the shooting area is) the athlete’s laser pistol is waiting at their assigned position and the each athlete must cock their pistol and fire at a target 10 meters away and try to hit the center black center of the target. If they score a hit, you will see a light above the target turn green. Each athlete must score five hits to leave the shooting area and begin their first running loop of 800 meters. This is repeated 4 times for a total of 4 shooting series and 4 x 800 meters running. Because of the handicap start, the first athlete across the finish line is the winner and champion of the _______ (insert competition name) Modern Pentathlon.”
TIP - Periodically the announcer should announce to the athletes how many minutes left in the warm-up period. For example,

“Attention athlete’s – 10 minutes until the start.”

TIP - With 6 minutes remaining before the start, the announcer should read the Combined event overview once more and then close the warm-up area and call the athletes to the starting line.

“Attention athletes, there are five minutes remaining before the start. Warm-up is now over. Please clear the shooting area and report to the starting line.”

TIP - The starter/judge will tell the announcer when they are prepared to start and give the announcer a 1 minute warning before start. Announcer should announce 1 minute to start.

“Attention athlete’s we are 1 minute to start – 1 minute to start.”

TIP - Once the Combined event starts it is important for the announcer to “call the race”. Similar to the swimming event. It is important for the announcer to generate excitement in the venue for both spectators and competitors. During the race, the DJ should play UIPM approved music at a sound level where the spectators can clearly understand the announcer.

The announcer should focus on the leaders and the athletes from the host nation. Typical race script announcing is as follows;

“Our leader is______ (insert athlete name and nation) wearing race number 1 and shooting in position number 1. In second position is________ (insert athlete name and nation) wearing race number______ (insert number) and shooting in____ (insert shooting position number).”

TIP - There should be very little “dead air”. Always commentate focusing on the leaders, announcing any changes in the top 3 positions, and any dramatic advances, (an athlete moving up many places for example regardless of start position). The announcer can also comment on the shooting itself. For example,
**SPORT PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**

**TIP** - Build excitement — especially before the final shooting series

“... (insert athlete name) has 3 green lights, ... needs 2 more.”

“... (insert athlete name) has 5 hits, he/she is off for their final 800 meter loop!”

**TIP** - As the leaders approach the end of their final 800 meters, announce with great excitement. For example,

“The winner of the gold medal and champion will be _______ (insert athlete name/nation) and the silver medal will go to _______ (insert athlete name/nation) and the bronze to _______ (insert name/nation)”

**TIP** - Keep announcing the name/nation/final position of the athletes as they finish—until all the athletes have finished. When the final athlete has finished the announcer should recap and announce the start of the award ceremony.

“... (insert name of competition) Modern Pentathlon competition. The winner of the gold medal and champion will be _______ (insert athlete name/nation) and the silver medal will go to _______ (insert athlete name/nation) and the bronze to _______ (insert name/nation). Join us in just a few minutes for the award ceremony for the ... (insert name of competition) Modern Pentathlon competition.”

**TIP** - The announcer should push the athletes and presenters to be on schedule for the awards ceremonies.

“... (insert name of competition) Modern Pentathlon competition. The winner of the gold medal and champion will be _______ (insert athlete name/nation) and the silver medal will go to _______ (insert athlete name/nation) and the bronze to _______ (insert name/nation). Join us in just a few minutes for the award ceremony for the ... (insert name of competition) Modern Pentathlon competition.”

**TIP** - "Athletes we need you dressed in your national uniforms and assembled in the awards preparation area immediately.”