CAIRO (EGY) TO HOST 2021 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cairo (EGY) will host the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in June after the event was moved from Minsk (BLR). See Page 2
UIPM World Championships updates

The capital city of Egypt, Cairo, will stage the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships from June 7-13.

The city hosted the UIPM 2017 Pentathlon World Championships and has become a perennial UIPM Pentathlon World Cup venue in recent years.

The move to Cairo (EGY) was another demonstration of Egypt’s hosting capacity and sets up a busy summer of UIPM Sports in the North African country.

Egypt will also stage the UIPM 2021 Junior and Youth World Championships in Alexandria in July, five months later than originally scheduled after a COVID-19 Coronavirus-enforced postponement.

The UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Championships will be the final opportunity for pentathletes to qualify for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, now taking place in 2021.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Of course we are all facing a very difficult challenge to overcome the pandemic and enable athletes at all levels to return to sport. But the relocation of the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships to Cairo gives everybody hope of a memorable event in June 2021 to end the qualification for the Olympic Summer Games Tokyo 2020 in 2021.

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Taking place in Minsk as planned. The sanctions imposed by the International Olympic Committee on the National Olympic Committee of Belarus in December 2020 were also noted.

"Having remained in close contact with the Belarus Federation of Modern Pentathlon throughout this process, it was important that a decision was made that would protect this strong partnership and the future development of our sport in Belarus.

"The EB reviewed the situation this week and, first of all, declared its complete confidence in the Local Organising Committee being able to stage a competition of the highest quality in the wonderful city of Minsk when the time is right.

"After a detailed discussion, the EB voted to move the UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Minsk to a future date because of a growing concern that the present instability in the host nation could jeopardize the success of UIPM’s flagship competition.

"There was a particular concern that numerous competing nations would be reluctant to travel to Belarus at this time, and EB members wanted to protect the fairness of the competition and the Olympic qualification process without adding pressure to the already difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

"In many ways our combined World Championships represents the pinnacle of our sport: it aligns the showpiece elements of Modern Pentathlon – this year with the additional context of Olympic qualification – with the exciting development opportunities provided by the inclusion of the most popular UIPM Sport, Laser Run.

"I am pleased that, in taking the difficult decision to move the competition to an alternative venue in 2021, the EB has protected the sanctity of this event while expressing a commitment to the future development of our sporting movement in a very active and progressive Modern Pentathlon country.”

UIPM 2021 Junior and Youth World Championships rescheduled

The UIPM Executive Board voted to postpone the UIPM 2021 Junior World Championships and UIPM 2021 Youth World Championships, both of which were scheduled to take place in February 2021.

The competitions have been rescheduled to take place in Alexandria (EGY) on the following dates:

July 4-10: UIPM 2021 Youth World Championships (U19/U17)
July 11-17: UIPM 2021 Junior World Championships

To accurately assess the viability of the upcoming championships, the EB was provided with information about the global impact of the ongoing COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, travel restrictions facing incoming teams from other countries and current virus levels in Egypt.

The EB was also presented with a report on the readiness of local organisers in Alexandria (EGY) to stage the proposed competition in line with UIPM’s new Event Organizers COVID-19 Infection Prevention Guidelines.

After assessing all of the information at its disposal, UIPM’s highest decision-making body voted to postpone the competition in the interest of protecting the health of all participants.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “With great regret we announce the postponement of the UIPM 2021 Junior World Championships and UIPM 2021 Youth World Championships.

“The Coronavirus pandemic is seriously testing the resolve of most countries around the world and health must be the priority at this uniquely challenging time. I feel very sorry for our junior and youth athletes that they must continue to wait for their chance to compete on the world stage again.

“Say to those athletes today: be assured that you are the future of our movement. Across our global community we will continue to work tirelessly to provide you with the opportunities you deserve. Keep training in a safe way. Listen to the advice of your government and medical experts and look after your health. Your time will come.”

“While the EB has decided to reschedule these competitions to a later date in 2021, we have every confidence in the local organising committee to organise these competitions in the safest possible circumstances with all precautions in place according to the UIPM guidelines.

“I thank our friends from the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport for their understanding and their patience.”

Sharif Elerian, President of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation, said: “We have waited for nearly a full year for official Pentathlon competitions to take place again. An extra four-month delay we can all withstand together.

“The most important thing is the safety and good health of all our athletes, coaches and other participants. This delay will give more time for all our athletes worldwide to prepare better and thus give everyone a fairer chance in competition. I thank UIPM, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, the Egyptian Olympic Committee and Egyptian Ministry of Sport, for their understanding and cooperation in this matter and their full support for the new timing in July.”
Marina Carrier (AUS) emerges from the waves with feet on the ground

Athletes deal with uncertainty in different ways. Marina Carrier hit the ocean.

Ningatiating the waves of the Tasman Sea was a calming distraction for the pentathlete during the enforced lockdown of 2020, not least because she was recovering from a stress fracture to her thigh. Now she feels as strong as she can be for the Games this year.

The Australian, 24, has the unenviable task of following in the footsteps of Chloe Esposito this summer. But if expectations are raised because of her compatriot’s spectacular success at Rio 2016, Carrier (AUS) seems to be keeping her feet very much on the ground. She has a strong support network around her, including fellow qualifier and training partner Ed Fernon (AUS), and a solid grounding in Modern Pentathlon going back to her early days competing in the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games, then impressing with an 8th place in the UIPM 2017 Junior World Championships, followed by numerous strong performances in the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup and other international competitions in Europe.

In the latest Road to Tokyo interview, Carrier (AUS) talks about her motivations, her memories and the sheer magic of watching a fellow Australian show that anything is possible in Modern Pentathlon if you train hard and commit.

Q: How did it feel when you discovered you had secured a qualification place for the Tokyo Olympics for Australia?

A: Pretty surreal, to be honest! It was back in February 2020 at a time when things were really uncertain with COVID and the postponement of the Olympic Games. With everything that’s happened over the last 12 months it’s still sinking in.

Q: Did you watch the Modern Pentathlon at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games? What were you thinking?

A: I absolutely did! I remember it was early morning, and I was watching before I went to training for the day. I got goosebumps watching Chloe take the lead on that last lap. She worked so hard and to see her win for herself and for Australia was just epic.

Q: What would it mean to you if selected to compete for Australia at Tokyo 2020 in 2021?

A: I’ve been officially selected to the Australian team and it’s the ultimate testament to all the hard work that my team and I have put in for so long. I’m excited to see what we can do at the Games.

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

A: I’m so grateful to everyone in the Australian Olympic Committee, International Olympic Committee and Japanese Government for their commitment to making the Games as safe and successful as they can be. Personally for me, I was very injured through 2020, so the postponement was an unexpected opportunity for me to take the time to recover fully and be as strong as I can be for the Games this year.

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

A: In Australia we’re so lucky to have access to so much beautiful nature; swimming in the ocean when the city was locked down was really calming and uplifting for me.

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Q: What has been the most challenging part?
A: The uncertainty of everything. It’s frustrating when things can change so rapidly, it’s so hard to make plans. You feel powerless.

Q: And what positive things have you seen?
A: People - friends, family and complete strangers - connecting in so many wonderful and heart-warming ways. I know it may be cliched, but I’ve loved the shifting of priorities and people reassessing what’s important in life: friendship, family, home, health, simple pleasures.

Q: When, and why, did you take up the Modern Pentathlon?
A: I lived in England for a year in 2010, where I was introduced to it at school - I just fell in love with the idea of it, and couldn’t wait to get started! I had a bit of a break from the sport when I moved back to Australia but was re-introduced to it by my training partner, Ed Fernon, at the end of 2012.
One of the breakthrough pentathletes of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic cycle, Martin Vlach of Czech Republic has a physical and mental strength that promises to take him far. After a top-10 finish at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing (CHN), the teenager continued to progress well at youth level and became UIPM Biathlete Under 19 world champion in Lisbon (POR) in 2016, just a few weeks after watching the Rio 2016 Olympic Games on TV.

Graduating to the five disciplines, he won European junior bronze in Barcelona (ESP) the following year and finished 5th alongside Marek Grycz (CZE) in the Men's Relay at the UIPM 2017 Pentathlon World Championships in Cairo (EGY). He kept working hard and returned a year later to claim a stellar silver in Mexico City (MEX) alongside the experienced Jan Kuf (CZE).

On the back of some excellent individual performances on the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup circuit, Vlach (CZE) performed superbly in a highly competitive field to win bronze at the European Championships in Bath (GBR) to comfortably secure the coveted prize of a qualification place at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games for his country.

In the latest Road to Tokyo interview, the 23-year-old reflects on the unwanted interruption to his career in the past 12 months and makes it clear he has refused to let it alter his goals.

Q: How did it feel when you won bronze at the 2019 European Championships to secure a qualification place for the Tokyo Olympics?
A: It was my first big individual success in the senior category and in conjunction with Olympic qualification it was an amazing feeling.

Q: Did you watch the Modern Pentathlon at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games? What were you thinking?
A: I did. It was my first big individual success in the senior category and in conjunction with Olympic qualification it was an amazing feeling.

Q: Describe yourself as an athlete in three words.
A: Energetic, chatty, organised.

Q: Who are your role models in sport, and in life?
A: Too many to name! Mostly I’m inspired by all the people who I see around me: my training partners, my coaches, my friends, my family, my partner.
Aya Medany OLY becomes Member of Egyptian Parliament

Three-time Olympian and leading athlete ambassador Aya Medany OLY has begun a new career in politics after being appointed as a Member of the Egyptian Parliament.

The appointment by His Excellency President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi is the latest accolade for Medany (EGY), who is Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee and sits on two Commissions within the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The former pentathlete, who competed in her first Olympic Games aged 15 (Athens 2004) and went on to compete at Beijing 2008 and London 2012, is a strong advocate for equal representation and rights in sport.

A former teacher, Mrs Medany took the constitutional oath in the Egyptian Parliament in Cairo on January 12, embarking on a five-year term of service as a national politician.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann led the tributes to the UIPM Executive Board Member, saying: “I was so delighted to get a call on January 7 from Sharif Elerian, President of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation, to inform me that Aya had just been appointed as one of 100 members of the Parliament from the President of Egypt. “Immediately I called Aya and congratulated her and she said ‘you are the first person giving me congratulations. You called before my family and friends!’”

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UIPM Athletes Commission Chair Aya Medany OLY takes the constitutional oath in Cairo (EGY) as she embarks on a new career as a Member of the Egyptian Parliament.
Yane Marques elected President of Olympic Athletes’ Commission in Brazil

Brazil’s first Olympic Modern Pentathlon medalist, Yane Marques, has been chosen to represent her fellow Olympians on the Board of the Brazil Olympic Committee (COB). Marques (BRA), who won bronze at the London 2012 Olympic Games, received 73% of the vote in a virtual election on 12 January and was duly elected President of the COB Athletes Commission.

The 37-year-old, who flew the flag for Brazil at the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, said: “I am very proud of Yane Marques after hearing of her election as President of CACOB, which underlines the high respect in which she is held and the trust and confidence that she established during her very successful sporting career as a Modern Pentathlon athlete.”

“Yane truly represents the ideas and follows the philosophy of our creator, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.” Yane Medany OLY, Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee and Member of the IOC Athletes Commission, added: “Yane is one of the strongest role models in our sport and I am delighted to hear that her fellow Olympic athletes in Brazil have chosen her to lead them as President of the Athletes Commission.”

“As an Olympic medalist and flagbearer, elite athlete and Youth Olympic Games ambassador, Yane is not only a leader for her fellow athletes in Brazil – she is also an inspiration for all women and girls worldwide who seek empowerment in the world of sport. On a personal level, Yane and I used to compete together and I’m so proud to call her a friend.”

Marques (BRA) has an excellent record of ambassadorial work on behalf of Modern Pentathlon and Olympic athletes generally. In 2018 she was recruited as an Athlete Role Model for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires (ARG). UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “I am very proud of Yane Marques after hearing of her election as President of CACOB, which underlines the high respect in which she is held and the trust and confidence that she established during her very successful sporting career as a Modern Pentathlon athlete.”

Valter Magini (1943-2020)

Tributes have been paid to one of Modern Pentathlon’s most admired administrators, Valter Magini, after his death aged 73. The popular former President of the International Modern Pentathlon Federation (FIPM) died in Italy on January 7 after contracting the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Across Italy, Valter promoted the development of Modern Pentathlon with passion and expertise for 40 years. He fulfilled various elected positions within the FIPM and served with distinction as President. He was also Vice-President of the European Modern Pentathlon Confederation, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, a close friend of Valter and his family for more than 30 years, said: “Throughout the world of Modern Pentathlon and UIPM, we know that the contribution of Valter Magini was highly regarded and appreciated. We took a wonderful journey together and we say goodbye with heavy hearts.”

Giovanni Malago, President of the Italian Olympic Committee (CINI), added: “His great passion for sport has brought him to the top of the discipline he loved most. We will miss his humanity and his competence. Italian sport owes him great affection and gratitude.”
Have your say in shaping our sport

Athletes and coaches of the UIPM movement, this is your time to stand up and make your voices heard. We are looking for 13 nominations for two important democratic institutions – the UIPM Athletes Committee and UIPM Coaches Committee. And thanks to the changes made to our Election Rules in 2018, more candidates have the opportunity to express themselves.

Let’s look at the UIPM Athletes Committee first.

This is an opportunity that our athletes treasure; I truly believe pentathletes want to have their voices heard when it comes to our sporting movement. We are blessed with many intelligent, educated role models in the athlete community who have strong opinions and the ability to influence. And with so much uncertainty in the sporting world right now, so many challenges to overcome, it has never been more important that our global movement is represented by strong-minded individuals with a passion for Modern Pentathlon and UIPM Sports.

This year, as we look forward to the return of UIPM competitions a little later than expected, we don’t only have one position on the Athletes Committee up for grabs. There are seven places to be occupied for the next Olympic cycle, and all of them will be decided by election during the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Cairo (EGY) in June.

I’m excited to see who will come forward, especially as we already have 12 excellent nominations from last year, when we didn’t have the opportunity to arrange a vote. Don’t forget that not only will the successful candidates sit on the AC for an Olympic cycle, there may also be the opportunity for one of them to chair the committee and take a seat on the UIPM Executive Board, where Aya Medany has made an excellent contribution since she became Chair of the AC in 2017.

The same applies to the Coaches Committee, where there are six places available for the next Olympic cycle and also subject to an election in Cairo (EGY). This is where the voice of experience really counts.

UIPM is fortunate to have a global community of highly skilled and dedicated coaches – I’ve been to the World Coaches Conference in Manchester (GBR) enough times to know the depth of knowledge and expertise that lies within this group of people.

It’s time for the voice of experience to be heard, so I’m hoping we will see a wide array of nominations from across all continents. Same as the Athletes Committee, there may be an opportunity not only to sit on the CC but also the UIPM EB, as Christian Roudaut has done in recent years with so much authority.

I would encourage all NFs to nominate candidates with the vision, patience and motivation to fulfil these positions. It is important that our athletes and coaches speak for themselves and join UIPM in our mission to shape the sport in the best possible way.
The UIPM President, Dr Klaus Schormann, has issued a statement of hope and reassurance about the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games as the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect global sport at the beginning of 2021.

Dear colleagues and friends of the UIPM movement,

In 2020 I wrote to you about the impact of the COVID-19 Coronavirus and expressed a wish that we should stay together, stay united and show patience to get through the pandemic and return to the wonderful sporting life we all enjoy.

We are now in the Olympic year 2021, we are all focusing on the Olympic Summer Games in Tokyo with the Opening Ceremony on July 23, and I need to ask you once again for your patience. The pandemic continues to stretch us to our limits, right across all global society, and we still have to overcome a number of issues linked to health to be secure for training and for normal life. Within our sporting movement, I promise you that we, the UIPM Executive Board and all Committees and Commissions, will try our best to give you full support.

In the case of athletes, coaches and support teams, we will support you in every way possible as you prepare to qualify and to compete later in the Olympic Games. Please don’t listen to the rumours or speculation from people who are speculating that the Games in Tokyo will not happen. I assure you, the Games will happen. And we will all do our best – the National Olympic Committees, the National Federations, the Union, all responsible people in sport society – to make it the best possible Olympic experience.

Today I am writing to ask you personally, please don’t lose your motivation. Please go and train hard as you did always. I know it is not easy in these days, but never give up. The hope will never die and we will always focus on our goals in a positive way.

One of the reasons to be hopeful in 2021 is the availability of vaccines. While we have been making sacrifices in our lifestyle, the global science community has been working hard to play its part in defeating this virus, and now the help is coming our way.

There is much we do not yet know about how and when vaccines will be made available, but I strongly support the vaccination of athletes, coaches and officials involved in the Olympic Games. Everything possible must be done to ensure the health and safety of all participants in the Olympic Games, so I urge you to be open-minded about this.

While the International Olympic Committee works on developing a plan with the World Health Organisation, the Japanese Government and vaccine manufacturers, we will stay in close communication with your National Federations and your NOCs. Vaccination can be a very positive step towards giving you more confidence and a feeling of security about training and competing.

To all athletes standing at different places on the road to Tokyo, I ask you please to keep your spirit intact, focus on your motivation to be a strong athlete, and keep preparing mentally and physically to perform at a high level in the qualification competitions in Budapest, Sofia, Seoul and Cairo. We will see each other soon, in good health and good conditions, well trained and supported by your coaches and federations.

And to all athletes and participants at different levels of the UIPM Sports pyramid, I ask for your patience too. This is a test of our resolve and we must pass the test – your time will also come.

For now let’s look forward in a very clear way, starting with the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2021. The Olympic Games is the motor of the global sporting movement. Yes, we will be there.

With my best personal greetings and wishes for good health,

Dr Klaus Schormann
UIPM President
12.01.2021: Meeting with Malta

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann had a video conference with Marco Tomasini, General Secretary of the Malta Sport for All Federation, to discuss the possibility of establishing Modern Pentathlon in Malta.

President Dr Schormann explained all the necessary steps for becoming a member of UIPM and underlined that the first official contact should come through the National Olympic Committee of Malta. UIPM Development Manager Maxime Papillion and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer joined the meeting.

19.01.2021: German Olympic Academy (DOA) meeting

President Dr Schormann attended an online session in his capacity as an Executive Board Member of the German Olympic Academy (DOA).

The EB Members discussed topics relating to the future of Olympism, efficiency and achieving objectives, the Olympic values and how they can be promoted, taught and transferred through various pillars of society. The session ended with workshops in which the EB members combined their points.

25.01.2021: Meeting with IOC President

The IOC President, Dr Thomas Bach, briefed all Olympic Summer Sport International Federations (IFs) about preparations for the Olympic Summer Games Tokyo 2020, now taking place in 2021.

Dr Bach gave a clear statement about the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and how the IOC, the World Health Organisation and the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee are constantly evaluating the worldwide situation and sharing information with NOCs and IFs.

26.01.2021: Darmstadt Lazer Run meeting

President Dr Schormann and his Executive Assistant, Lena Nussbaumer, held a video conference with the Sport Director of Darmstadt (GER), Martin Westermann, to discuss the planned Global Laser Run City Tour in June 2021. During the discussion they underlined how important it is during the pandemic to arrange sport events to help athletes and members of society overcome difficult times.
26.01.2021: ‘Be Active Through Sport’ taskforce brainstorming

President Dr Schormann has assembled professionals from German sport and international business to form a taskforce entitled ‘Trimm Dich’ (Be Active Through Sport). The taskforce works on general sport development and how sport and health can have an impact on society, with projects to be tested first in Germany. The taskforce comprises DOA President Dr Gerald Fritz, marketing experts Prof Dr Markus and Prof Dr Nicole Mau, Dr Michael Doerr (a former world-class pentathlete, sport scientist and personal coach) and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer join a meeting with Martin Westermann, Sport Director of the city of Darmstadt (GER)

Peciak (POL) joins the pantheon

Janusz Peciak (POL), who continues to be centrally involved in Modern Pentathlon to this day as UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport, celebrates his gold medal at the Montreal 1976 Olympic Games

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Baron Pierre de Coubertin

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