

**MAR  
2020**



UNION INTERNATIONALE  
DE PENTATHLON MODERNE



**World Pentathlon  
Newsletter**

## CONTENTS

- Road to Tokyo: Olympic Games update - p.2
- Road to Tokyo: Steph Cook (GBR) interview - p.4
- COVID-19 Coronavirus: UIPM President's Statement - p.7
- COVID-19 Coronavirus: Anti-doping Q&A for athletes - p.8
- Laser Run spotlight - p.10
- UIPM development sports update - p.13
- News from around the world - p.14
- Inside UIPM: Monthly activities of President Dr Schormann - p.17
- New Balance World Rankings - p.20

## ROAD TO TOKYO: NEW DATES FOR OLYMPIC GAMES



*The Games of the XXXII Olympiad will now take place from July 23 to August 8, 2021 - 12 months later than planned - due to the Coronavirus pandemic*



# ROAD TO TOKYO

## Olympic Games update

### New dates announced for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in July/August 2021

UIPM has welcomed the decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to reschedule the Games of the XXXII Olympiad for July 23 to August 8, 2021.

The announcement, which came in the wake of mass cancellations and postponements across the global sporting calendar due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, means the UIPM Executive Board (EB) can now finalise plans for a revised qualification system for Modern Pentathlon.

Details of the new process will be announced as soon as possible and it has been confirmed that quota places that have already been secured at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will be protected.

The EB, meeting via conference call, will also now be able to discuss the rescheduling of the UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Championships in Cancun (MEX) and plan the 2021 competition season.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "On behalf of our global community I congratulate our partners at the IOC and Tokyo 2020 on this swift confirmation of new dates for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games from July 23 to August 8, 2021.

"I believe this is the best possible outcome in the circumstances. Our National Federations, athletes, coaches



Athletes like Valentin Belaud (FRA) now have 16 months to prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

and their support teams all now have the certainty of knowing they have 16 months to prepare for the Olympic Games.

"We look forward now to finalising a qualification system that is fair and open to all athletes, and to providing the competition dates that will enable everybody involved in Modern Pentathlon to start making plans aimed at ensuring peak performance in August 2021.

"In the meantime I urge everyone in our global movement to follow the advice of their Government and relevant health authorities so that we can contribute as effectively as possible to the containment of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

"Our world is united in a combined effort to rid the planet of this virus so that we can restore our normal way of life in education, business, society and sport."

Aya Medany, Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee and three-time Olympic pentathlete for Egypt (2004, 2008, 2012), added: "This news will be a great source of relief to pentathletes across the world. They now have a clear target to work towards after a long period of uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

"Everybody realises the importance of the measures that have been put in place to contain the COVID-19 Coronavirus and it's great to know that the Olympics has been moved forward

as far as possible to ensure maximum preparation time.

"For most athletes, training and competition programmes are completely on hold and we look forward to providing athletes with new UIPM competition dates and a revised qualification process soon."

The revised qualification process will be designed to safeguard the health of athletes and others involved in the UIPM competition circuit while providing athletes with a fair chance of fulfilling their dreams of competing in the Olympic Games.

The EB already convened on March 23 to discuss options for the new system based on the various scenarios under consideration by the IOC and Tokyo 2020, including postponement of the Games.

At that meeting the EB agreed to cancel the UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Cup season and postpone the UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Championships in Cancun (MEX) to a later date in 2020.

With the 2020 season on hold until July at the earliest, discussions have been continuing with the organisers of the other UIPM World Championships set for the second half of the season (Junior, Youth, Laser Run and Biathlon/Triathlon).

The viability of each event will be assessed by the UIPM Competitions Department, which will then update the EB.

There are currently no plans to relocate the UIPM 2020 Congress and Annual Awards, which are scheduled to take place in Xiamen (CHN) from November 13-15.

UIPM will monitor the travel situation closely and discuss the matter with all relevant authorities in the coming months.

### ROAD TO TOKYO: OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIERS

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

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





Steph Cook (GBR) completes a stunning Running performance to cross the line and become the first women's Olympic champion in Modern Pentathlon

#### Interview: Steph Cook (GBR)

**Coinciding with International Women's Day 2020, UIPM took a trip down memory lane with Modern Pentathlon's first female Olympic champion, Steph Cook of Great Britain.**

**S**teph Cook is one of five women who have won the ultimate prize in Modern Pentathlon – the Olympic gold medal. But for four years she stood alone on that pedestal.

It was the dawn of a new millennium. The year 2000 in Sydney (AUS), a new era for the Olympic Games and especially for Modern Pentathlon, which finally had the gender balance that today we take for granted.

After many years of campaigning and lobbying, the Women's Modern Pentathlon had been introduced to the Olympic Games programme and 28-year-old Cook (GBR) summoned all of her iron will and awesome athleticism to become the first woman to scale the top step of that famous podium, inspiring countless women and girls in Great Britain and around the world.

Now a Member of the UIPM Hall of Fame, Cook's career at the apex of Pentathlon was relatively brief, but she crammed an incredible amount of success into a short period. When she retired in 2001, to resume her medical career, she did so as a reigning Olympic, world and European champion who had picked up three World Cup gold medals in three years.

Born in Scotland and educated in England, Cook (GBR) had started her Pentathlon career while studying medicine at Oxford University. She was already a competitive rower but was drawn to Pentathlon through her background in Riding and Running.

It was her speed and stamina that enabled her to cut through the field from sometimes distant positions and reach the podium.

This is what happened in Sydney (AUS) where she came from behind to claim a stunning gold, racing past her training partner Emily deRiel (USA) in the final 300m of the cross-country having already overtaken her compatriot Kate Allenby (GBR), who picked up the bronze.

Cook's gold was Great Britain's first Modern Pentathlon medal and, more fundamentally, the first ever won by a female of the species. On International Women's Day 2020, UIPM invited the pioneering Olympic champion to look back at the wider significance of her seminal triumph.

#### **Q: What were your expectations heading into the Sydney Olympics?**

A: For about six months to a year beforehand, my performances had become more consistent. I'd won a World Cup in Mexico to qualify for Sydney and I won silver at the European Championships in Hungary, so I was up there gunning for the podium and I was ranked joint No.1 in the world along with an Italian, Fabiana Fares.

Having said that, I was more under the radar because Kate Allenby was the better-known British pentathlete who had been on the scene longer than I had, and I was quite happy to stay under the radar a little. I knew that I was potentially in with a shout of winning

a medal, but with a sport like Modern Pentathlon there are so many different factors that come into play.

#### **Q: Did you feel you had the mental strength to perform under the spotlight of the Olympic Games?**

A: I remember looking at the women I was competing against and, because that was the first time women had been included at the Olympics, it was a level playing field from that point of view. None of the women had competed on that stage before.

I believed there were at least half a dozen athletes who had a chance of winning, certainly from a physical point of view, and I think a lot of it came down to what was going on mentally. I had always known that my Running was strong, and as soon as the Riding was over I knew I was only going to move up from where I was.

I'd told myself in advance of the competition that if I was within one minute of the leaders going into the

Running, I would stand a chance of reaching the podium.

I never looked at the Olympics like I was going in to win it. I was going in to do the best that I could do on the day, and I concentrated on the process. If you take care of the process, the results take care of themselves.

#### **Q: Did you notice a rapid improvement in standards in women's pentathlon before and after Sydney 2000?**

A: Yes. Definitely. The year before, we had the World Cup Final in Sydney as an Olympic Test Event, and the British Olympic Association arranged a camp on the Gold Coast. I remember speaking to one of the team psychologists and we looked at where my performance was and also where it needed to be in a year's time, based on the trend of other athletes' performances. Standards were improving massively across the board.

#### **Q: How aware were you – and the**



Steph Cook poses with her gold medal and the Great Britain flag after her success at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games



### other 23 athletes in the field – that you were making history in Sydney?

A: I think it really was a landmark point. Four years before, I'd watched the Men's Olympic Modern Pentathlon on TV and I had only just started the sport a few years before that. I knew that a lot of people had been campaigning long and hard to get Women's Pentathlon into the Olympics, and I think we were all aware that we were making history by being there.

It was a big moment. And in some ways, particularly because the sport of Modern Pentathlon had been created by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, it was even more poignant to have women competing on a level playing field with men at the Olympics.

### Q: What were your driving forces as an athlete, and how do they differ to the driving forces in your medical career?

A: I think they are probably very similar. I think I am quite a driven and motivated person. I think I put a lot of pressure on myself and I'm a very competitive person – not necessarily against other people but against myself. I'm a bit of a perfectionist in that sense.

I used to train like a lunatic, I think some people would probably say. I did train really hard and when I had the opportunity to put my medical career on hold and move to Bath to train full time, it was an incredible opportunity.

But I never set out to do Pentathlon to go to the Olympics. I started the sport at university because I missed Riding, I missed horses. I wanted to do something a bit different as well.

I had a background in Running and Riding but I couldn't even tumble-turn when I started Swimming at university, and I had never taken part in Fencing or Shooting. But that was what was really inspiring for me – taking up completely new sports. I'm the sort of person who doesn't want to get bored,

either, and when you do five different disciplines you don't get bored. There's always something you can improve on, and that appealed to me in terms of challenging myself.

### Q: How closely have you followed Modern Pentathlon since you retired in 2001?

A: I keep up to date with what's going on. I have commentated for BBC at the Olympics in Athens, London and Rio (I missed Beijing because I had a young baby at that point), and I enjoy keeping an eye on it.

I attended the recent European Championships that have been held in Bath and I follow what's happening – I know that Jo Muir (GBR) has just won the Hungarian Indoors as well as Pentathlon World Cup Cairo, which is amazing.

### Q: What do you think of the format changes that have been implemented since Sydney 2000?

A: I think it has still fundamentally stayed true to the sport. The biggest change has been Laser Run, which has only added to the excitement at the end because it's so much less predictable now. I'm not sure that I would have favoured it as an athlete, and I'm quite glad that in my time it was how it was!

That's been a big change, and with the Fencing Bonus Round, I'm slightly sceptical about that because the points difference it makes is limited, and it's more for the spectators. The one-stadium format again is an interesting concept, and again I'm slightly sceptical about how it will work, but at the same time a sport has to be flexible and adapt and develop to enable it to continue to survive in the current climate.

I hope it stays true to the sport, but obviously there are changes that have to be made to keep the sport within the Olympic programme. We don't want to see Modern Pentathlon fall by the wayside as other sports have.

### Q: How important is gender equality in sport?

A: I think it's hugely important. It can be difficult in some ways to appreciate what it's like not to have that equality. I still remember the days when the distances in Modern Pentathlon were changed to make it easier for women. When everything was equalised it was very important.

I look around other sports and I see prize money being equalised, and women's sport is being much better recognised by the media, and the quality and level of sport is rising.

It's got a long way to go in terms of things like football and rugby, but I think there has been a fundamental shift over the last few years which is only accelerating, and pressure is being applied to make sure that it's equal.

There's no reason why it should be any different for women, because the quality of the sport they are doing is as good as the men – it's as exciting to watch. Modern Pentathlon is brilliant as a sport to have men and women competing on the same terms, and the other great thing has been the addition of the Mixed Relay. That's showcasing the fact that men and women are competing alongside each other in a relay competition.

I'm really proud to say that Modern Pentathlon has been leading the way in gender equality. We got women into the Olympics and that was the crucial point, and that was 20 years ago, and now I find it hard to imagine that it would have or could have been any different.

I've grown up thinking that there's no reason why I can't do the same thing as the person next to me, whether they are male or female. I've been lucky to have had so many amazing opportunities, and there is an expectation now that there is gender equality and it shouldn't be any different.

## UIPM President's statement

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann has made a statement to the global UIPM Sports community in the wake of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

*Dear colleagues and friends of the UIPM movement,*

*I am writing to share some reflections on the COVID-19 Coronavirus and the way it is affecting our global sporting movement and our lives.*

*I have been involved in Modern Pentathlon for 58 years and I have never experienced such a difficult situation as the one we are now facing. But this is true for all global society.*

*Our normal way of life has been interrupted. This applies to all walks of life across education, business and sport. It affects our everyday work, our social lives and of course, our sporting ambitions.*

*But while we are interrupted, we are also united. Our countries are working together to contain the pandemic. And I would like to ask you all to play your part. Please, follow the advice of your Government and your health authorities and try to do everything you can to stop the virus from spreading.*

*If we all do this, we will all feel safer and more protected, and soon we will be able restore our normal way of life and our UIPM Sports movement, which means so much to us.*

*To our athletes, coaches and support teams, I would like to say thank you for your patience. The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will now take place from July 23 to August 8, 2021. That means you will have 16 months to prepare, which I hope will give you some comfort. Today, we realise that you*



*cannot train properly for the Modern Pentathlon. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The Olympic flame is still burning brightly in Tokyo and waiting for us.*

*To our National Federations, I promise you that we are working hard within the UIPM Executive Board to create a new competitions schedule for later in 2020 and for 2021. I know this is a difficult time for you, as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic cycle has been extended from four years to five. Soon you will have the information you need to continue planning your programmes. Please remember that the entire world of sport is facing the same challenge.*

*To everybody in our UIPM Sports community, whether you are*

*involved in Triathlon, Laser Run or Para Pentathlon, whether you are a judge or a team manager or a development officer, I want to say hold on to your goals and hold on to your dreams. By standing together against this virus we will defeat it, and after we have defeated it we will be stronger.*

*Take care of yourselves and your loved ones, and remember we are all one family in Modern Pentathlon and Olympic sport sharing responsibility for the legacy of our founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.*

*Let us all continue to provide solidarity and strong support for IOC President Dr Thomas Bach and everyone who is committed to the success of the Olympic movement.*



## Medical and Anti-Doping Corner



### World Anti-Doping Agency releases COVID-19 athlete Q&A

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has responded to athlete queries concerning anti-doping in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by publishing a Question and Answer (Q&A) article that it developed in consultation with its Athlete Committee. This article is reproduced by UIPM with permission from WADA.

#### Q. Can I still be tested during the COVID-19 pandemic given the many restrictions in place, especially as it relates to social distancing and self-isolation?

A. Yes. Where no mobility or physical contact restrictions have been put in place by local authorities, testing may still occur anytime and anywhere.

#### Q. If I am tested, what will be done to minimize the chances of infection?

A. If a testing program can continue, ADOs need to put enhanced measures in place, consistent with the recommendations from health care authorities, to protect your health and that of sample collection personnel. More information can be found in WADA's ADO Guidance of 20 March 2020.

#### Q. What specific measures will ADOs take to minimize the chances of transmission?

A. Firstly, ADOs have been advised to conduct only the most critical doping controls. When conducting these tests, sample collection personnel must wash their hands regularly, and sanitize their hands or put on new gloves upon arriving at the testing location. Athletes and sample collection personnel must also, as far as possible, maintain the recommended social distance (two meters).

#### Q. What should I do if I have symptoms that indicate I may have COVID-19?

A. You should prioritize your health and the health of those around you. If you are concerned that you may have contracted the virus, the priority is to self-isolate and follow other precautions (hand washing, etc.) as recommended by international health organizations. You should also contact your local health authorities to ensure that you are following proper procedures in your region. In an antidoping context, you should advise your ADO of your situation with your whereabouts submission or when doping control personnel notify you for testing so that they can adjust their plans accordingly.

#### Q. Do I still need a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) if I have a medical condition requiring a prohibited substance or method?

A. As long as you remain subject to testing, you remain responsible for ensuring you have a valid TUE. If you have difficulty accessing a physician during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to access the necessary documentation to support your TUE application, you should document all actions and impediments to comply with the relevant requirements, and this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



#### Q. If athletes are not being tested regularly or less than usual, what is WADA doing to ensure clean competition when the situation returns to normal?

A. WADA is closely monitoring where levels of testing have been reduced or cancelled altogether. When the sporting landscape returns to normal, these 'gaps' in testing may be addressed through additional targeted testing.

#### Q. Do I still need to provide my whereabouts information?

A. Unless your ADO tells you otherwise, you should continue to provide whereabouts information as you remain subject to testing. If you wish to share information about your health, self-isolation, mobility restrictions, etc. which may impact doping controls, please share this information with your whereabouts submission.

#### Q. Can I refuse to be tested if I am self-isolating, in quarantine, or do not feel that adequate precautions are being taken by sample collection personnel?

A. No. Unless there is a mandatory isolation/lockdown, you are advised to comply with testing while following the preventative measures put in place by your ADO. If you refuse to be tested or if you do not complete the sample collection process after notification, or if you are not able (or willing) to provide a sample due to a lack of protective measures, your refusal will follow the normal results management process which affords you due process and the opportunity to justify your action. Keeping in mind that little testing is taking place, where appropriate, athletes are encouraged to comply with testing. If you rely on the assistance of a representative to assist with the doping control process (especially for minors or athletes with an impairment), and a representative is unavailable due to the impact of COVID-19, this too should be taken into account in the results management process.

#### Q. With reduction in testing, how can I have confidence in the future that I will be competing in a doping-free environment?

A. Placing public health above the needs of the anti-doping system means that there will be impacts on the fight against doping in sport. However, there is significantly less training being carried out and significantly fewer competitions taking place. It is also important for athletes to remember that doping control samples continue to be stored for future analysis and that with the Athlete Biological Passport, some samples collected post-COVID-19 may reveal indications of doping that occurred during the period. Finally, while testing may be reduced worldwide during this period, you can contribute to anti-doping efforts by ensuring you are up to date on the latest information and education and encourage your peers and team-mates to do the same. You can familiarize yourself with WADA's anti-doping education resources ([adel.wada-ama.org](http://adel.wada-ama.org)).



# LASER RUN SPOTLIGHT



Portugal



Action from the shooting range during the UIPM 2017 Laser Run World Championships in Lisbon (POR)

**A new series looking at the growth of UIPM's most popular development sport since its launch in 2015.**

In 2016, the capital city of Portugal hosted the 2nd UIPM Laser Run World Championships. Drone footage captured the incredible scene of a mass gathering of athletes participating in a UIPM Sport for the first time.

Since then, the country at the south-west corner of Europe – once thought by adventurers to be the end of the world – has become one of the global epicentres for UIPM's fastest-growing development sport.

Multiple editions of the UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour have been held in

a variety of cities, enabling new urban communities an entry point to UIPM's sporting pyramid and cultivating the development of Laser Run specialists who now attend the World Championships each year with medal ambitions.

Manuel Barroso, President of the Portuguese Modern Pentathlon Federation (FPPM), explains that it all started not in Lisbon (POR) in 2016 but in Perpignan (FRA), 12 months earlier.

"The 2016 Laser Run World Championships came after Maria Migueis had conquered the world title at the inaugural 2015 edition in France," says Manuel.

"We managed to have Lisbon as host city and it was located at one of the most iconic places of the Portuguese capital, the riverside and tourism centre.

"It was such a huge success from an organization and sport point of view and for sure it showed the potential of Laser Run as a competitive and dynamic activity for all ages and social groups."

Since then, Portugal has eagerly embraced the GLRCT, which was launched in 2017. "We have been developing the Laser Run activity with two strategies that come together: the Laser Run Sports for All Project and the Laser Run Elite Project," says Manuel.



Youth athletes of mixed gender set off from the start line during one of Portugal's many Global Laser Run City Tours in Braga (POR)

"We have created a National Laser Run League, which in 2019 reached 10 stages including a National Championship from the north to the

south of Portugal in a partnership with City Halls.

"We share resources and promote the

project with them, while the Portuguese federation takes the opportunity to equip local clubs and schools or informal groups and invite them to



A steady focus at the laser shooting range for one of Portugal's promising young Laser Run talents





Portugal has a proud record of competing at the highest level in Laser Run - a large team took part in the UIPM 2019 Laser Run World Championships

join the National League. We have now over 1,000 athletes associated only for Laser Run purposes, and 400 of these compete in the National League representing 30 clubs.

"In 2020 we started the Madeira Laser Run Regional League following the 2019 European Biathlon & Triathlon Championships held in Madeira. Laser Run is all about sport entertainment through competition and we try to bring local culture, music and festive activities to our Laser Run schedules."

As Portugal has demonstrated, Laser Run is a concept with exponential growth potential. But there are also challenges to overcome, as Manuel admits. "So far we have only attracted small and local sponsors," he says. "The next step is to involve TV and try to reach other sponsors."

"Each year the number of participants is increasing exponentially, but the limitations are always equipment and a small team in my federation to promote and manage the development



Portugal team members sing the national anthem during a medal ceremony in Budapest (HUN)

programme."

Manuel also acknowledges the challenge of developing a Pentathlon infrastructure in Portugal to enable Laser Run athletes to aim towards Olympic sport. But Laser Run is now firmly embedded in the nation's sporting DNA – so much so that Manuel has a number of recommendations

about how UIPM can further develop the GLRCT.

The 2020 season may be on hold but UIPM will keep working closely with organisers – both established and new – in all countries of the world to build on the brilliant groundwork that was done in cities like Lisbon at the start of this journey.

## UIPM development sports update

### UIPM 2020 Global Laser Run City Tour: Two days of thrills in Cairo (EGY)

A huge gathering of Laser Run athletes flocked to Cairo (EGY) for the first – and so far only – instalment of the UIPM 2020 Global Laser Run City Tour.

The event was held in conjunction with UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Cup Cairo at the Platinum Club, and there were so many participants that organisers had to arrange a second day of racing at another venue, the Rehab Club.



Young athletes set off at pace in Cairo (EGY) in the first Global Laser Run City Tour of 2020

The two-day event on February 28 and 29 attracted more than 550 athletes. On March 18 UIPM announced the suspension of all development sports activity due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

Sharif Elerian, President of the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation, said: "It was really a perfect competition and all the young athletes enjoyed the experience of watching the Pentathlon World Cup live."

"Regarding the postponement of the season, I hope that this crisis will pass with no casualties in the Pentathlon family and everything will return to normal as soon as possible. It is sad times to see the sport in general in a temporary shutdown worldwide. All the best to everyone and please keep safe."

### UIPM 2020 development sports calendar postponed until June

UIPM has written to the organisers of more than 20 upcoming mass-participation events to announce the

suspension of all global development sports activity.

The entire programme of UIPM Global Laser Run City Tours (GLRCTs) and Biathlon/Triathlon National Tours (BTNTs) for March, April and May 2020 has been suspended to assist with the international effort to combat the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

The suspension of the GLRCT and BTNT calendar follows the decision by the Executive Board on 15 March to postpone the UIPM 2020 Pentathlon World Cup season.

Viacheslav Malishev, UIPM Executive Board Member for Development, said: "In the current, difficult situation that the world is facing, we were left with no option but to suspend our development competitions calendar until such a time when it is safer to arrange large gatherings."

"Development sports are an essential component of UIPM's sporting pyramid and offer a pathway to Modern Pentathlon as well as opportunities for

people from all communities around the world to participate in a multi-sports environment.

"The GLRCT and BTNT have contributed much to the growth of our global participation base and I would like to thank all of our local organisers and member federations for their cooperation, flexibility and solidarity in these challenging times."

Three countries in Africa were due to host competitions during the three-month period – Egypt, Togo and Burkina Faso – along with Guatemala and Venezuela in the Americas, Sri Lanka and the Philippines in Asia and nine countries in Europe (Georgia, Portugal, Armenia, Belarus, France, Italy, Croatia, Russia and Ukraine).

The Global Laser Run City Tour was created in 2017 to provide an entry point to UIPM Sports for people of all ages in urban communities around the world. Since then, tens of thousands of athletes of all ages have competed in venues across all continents.



## News from around the world

### Athletes invited to apply to scholarship at Olympic University in Sochi (RUS)

One UIPM athlete will be offered a unique chance to join the next generation of sports professionals by spending a year studying in Sochi (RUS).

As part of the UIPM Athletes Career Programme (ACP), a scholarship has been secured for the Master of Sport Administration course at the Russian International Olympic University (RIOU) for the year 2020-21.

Interested athletes should apply through their National Federations to take up the opportunity, which has formed part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by UIPM and RIOU.

All applications must be received by the closing date of April 5, 2020.

The MSA at RIOU is regarded as one of the top three postgraduate sport management courses, ranked second in Europe. The selected applicant will receive a full-year scholarship to study at one of the world's first universities dedicated to sport business education.

The scholarship package covers tuition fees, accommodation in a double room in a three-star apartment hotel and a monthly allowance of 10,000 roubles (€121). The student will have to cover other costs such as airfare, medical insurance (17,000 roubles) and diploma (11,000 roubles).

Applicants must be active UIPM athletes with a UIPM ID registered by the NF (or retired since 2016), have a university degree, preferably in a



The city of Sochi (RUS), where the Master of Sport Administration course will be held for students



sports-related area and be proficient in English (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge). Other criteria for application will be sent via email directly to your National Federation upon request.

### Kitty Chiller wins IOC Women and Sport Award

Kitty Chiller, President of Modern Pentathlon Australia and the Oceania Confederation, was one of six winners of the International Olympic

Committee's Women and Sport Awards 2020.

The winners were revealed on International Women's Day on March 8 and the IOC said of the six recipients: "All have made remarkable contributions to the development, encouragement and reinforcement of women's and girls' participation in sport."

President Chiller was recognised along with Salima Souakri (ALG), Guylaine



Oceania Confederation President Kitty Chiller was a winner of the IOC Women and Sport Awards 2020

Demers (CAN), Kim Jin-ho (KOR) and Else Trangbaek (DEN), as well as non-profit organisation Skateistan.

Lydia Nsekera, Chair of the IOC Women in Sport Commission, said: "Over the last 20 years, the IOC Women and Sport Awards have represented an opportunity to celebrate change-makers and show the important role that sport can play in addressing gender equality issues."

"Choosing six winners out of the impressive applications that we received has been a challenge, and I am really proud of the quality of the projects that will be honoured."

The Sydney 2000 Olympian was Chef de Mission of the Australian Olympic team at Rio 2016, becoming the first woman to take charge of the team. Outside of her pentathlon commitments she now works as Chief Executive Officer at Gymnastics Australia.

### 'For our families': Pentathletes in Egypt join COVID-19 Coronavirus charity drive

Pentathletes in the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation (EMPF) have come up with a meaningful project to support their community – delivering boxes of supplies to people in need.

The EMPF identified people working in the UIPM Sports community who are struggling with the COVID-19 Coronavirus crisis or the measures imposed to tackle the pandemic. They created a programme entitled 'For Our Families'.

As people cannot go out due to the curfew in Egypt, members of the Federation have helped prepare boxes containing food (pasta, rice, oil, butter, sugar, tea) and cleaning supplies (soap, detergent, alcohol spray).

The Federation collected donations from all individuals willing to volunteer, including athletes, parents, executive board members and trainers. All Egyptian pentathletes have participated in the programme and packages were distributed to 225 people across two days.

The President of the Egyptian Modern

### Ferenc Benedek (1926-2020)

One of our sport's most revered figures, Ferenc Benedek, died on March 19 aged 94.

Benedek took up Modern Pentathlon in 1946 and seven years later became a coach in the Csepeli MTK and Csepel SC clubs. He coached a generation of Hungarian athletes to success on the world stage, starting at the Melbourne 1956 Olympic Games.

In Rome four years later, Benedek's



"Ferenc was a much-loved member of our global community who will be missed dearly by everybody who had the good fortune to know him."

"As a trainer and team leader, he was the man who nurtured Andras Balczó and many more great Hungarian athletes."

athletes launched an extraordinary run of Olympic success that continued throughout the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann paid tribute to him by saying:

"Later in life, he played an important role as a researcher and collector of items important to our sporting heritage, writing historical books and arranging many exhibitions at national and international competitions."





## John Peets (1931-2020)

Estonia's former pentathlete and coach, Johannes (John) Peets, died on March 30 at the age of 89. Peets took up the Modern Pentathlon in 1953, and in 1959 and 1960 he won bronze medals at the Soviet Union Championship with the Estonia team.

Two years later, Peets became Estonian champion in epee fencing, winning both the individual and team competitions. He also showed his sporting versatility by winning a silver medal in ski jumping and Nordic combined skiing in 1953.

After finishing his career as an



athlete, Peets worked as a coach for over 40 years, a period that encompassed the Olympic Games in Barcelona (1992), Atlanta (1996) and Sydney (2000). His student was Imre Tiidemann, now Secretary General of the Estonian Modern Pentathlon Association (EMPA).

Peets was a member of the EMPA board from 1957 to 2000 and served as vice-president from 2000 to 2004. In 2010 he was awarded the Estonian National Sports Lifetime Achievement Award.

Pentathlon Federation, Sharif Elerian, expressed his gratitude to all those who have taken part, including EMPF executive members, and another of the main contributors - Engineer Hisham Hattab, President of the Egyptian Olympic Committee.

The EMPF hopes to be able to repeat the charity drive next month and renew the operation on a monthly basis if the crisis continues.

President Elerian urged other sports federations to undertake similar projects (as pictured above) and to care for their community and people who are in need.

He said: "If everyone can follow this movement of solidarity, on a large scale and in every field, the country might be able to reduce potential damage and, hopefully, overcome the crisis."

## UIPM Masters update

Would you like to be kept informed about opportunities on the UIPM Masters scene?

This is a short note to invite anyone who is not currently on the mailing list to sign up. Please email [masters@pentathlon.org](mailto:masters@pentathlon.org) and you will be kept updated on UIPM Masters competitions, events and news.

**UIPM**  
World Pentathlon

**Masters Pentathlon**



## Inside UIPM:

### Monthly activities of President Dr Schormann



Left to right: Mihail Prokopenko (President, Modern Pentathlon Federation of Belarus), Polina Golovina (Secretary General, NOC Belarus), Dr Klaus Schormann (President, UIPM), Sergey Kovalchuk (Minister for Sport and Tourism) and Nikolai Ivanchenko (Member, MPFB Board of Trustees)

## 12-13.03.2020: Minsk, BLR

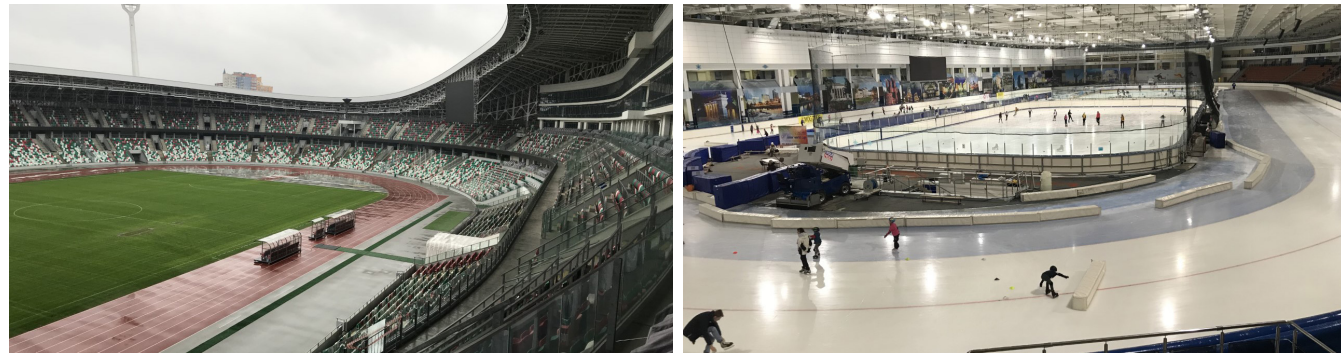
UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann visited the capital of Belarus, where the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run

World Championships will be hosted.

Mihail Prokopenko, Chairman of the Belarus Federation of Modern Pentathlon who is also Head of Sport in Minsk, joined

Minister of Sport and Tourism Sergey Kovalchuk to brief the UIPM President about the flagship UIPM competition, where athletes will have their last chance to qualify automatically for the Tokyo





The Dinamo National Olympic Stadium (above) and the Minsk Arena (right) are both possible venues for Minsk (BLR) to stage the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships (see detailed competition venues proposal below)



## ALTERNATIVE COMPETITION VENUE – Dinamo National Olympic Stadium



We proudly present Dinamo Stadium as a venue for WCH 2021

- Pentathlon Arena 5 in 1 on the Football field (The external dimensions of the field are 105x68m.)
- The capacity - 22000 spectators.

## COMPETITION VENUE – MINSK ARENA

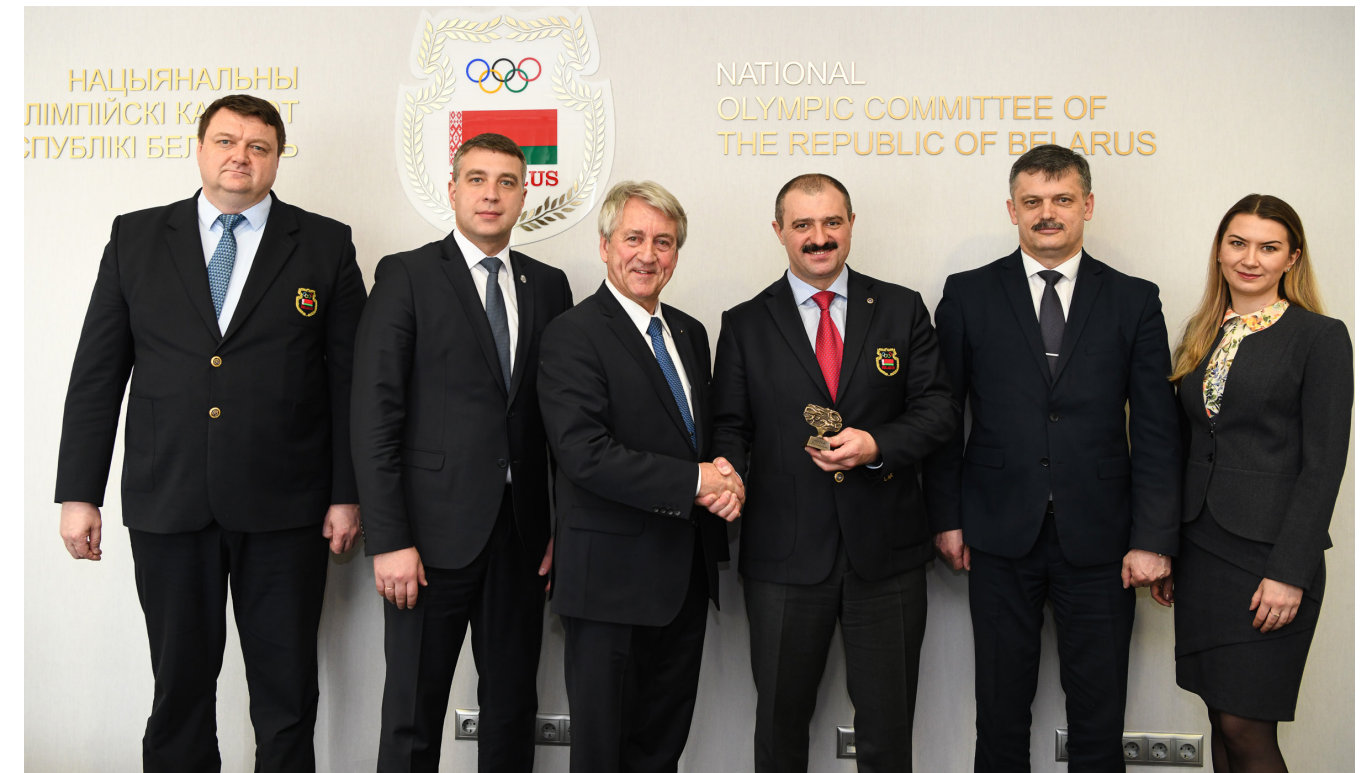
Fencing Ranking Round



Pentathlon Arena

We proudly present MINSK ARENA as a Venue for WCH 2021

- Pentathlon Arena 5 in 1 inside the **Skating Stadium** (3000 spectators)
- Fencing Ranking Round – in the **Cycling Track** (2000 spectators)



Left to right: Dzmitry Dauhalionak (Vice President, NOC Belarus), Mihail Prokopenko, Dr Klaus Schormann, Viktor Lukashenko (1st Vice President, NOC Belarus), Minister Sergey Kovalchuk and Polina Golovina. Below, the UIPM President tours the Olympic Museum of Belarus and addresses local media

2020 Olympic Games in 2021.

Dr Schormann visited two facilities where the championships may be held: the Dinamo National Olympic Stadium and the indoor Minsk Arena.

On March 13 the 1st Vice President of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of the Republic of Belarus, Viktor Lukashenko, welcomed President Dr Schormann in the headquarters where they discussed Minsk 2021 with Chairman Prokopenko, Minister Kovalchuk and NOC Secretary General Polina Golovina.

They also discussed the wider sporting movement in Belarus and future partnership between UIPM and the Belarus sporting society which are receiving strong support from the government.

President Dr Schormann visited the Olympic Museum of Belarus, which is situated within the NOC Headquarters, with members of the NOC Executive Board.





## New Balance World Rankings

The PWR is updated live on [www.pentathlon.org](http://www.pentathlon.org) after each competition. PWR as at 31 March 2020:

MEN			
RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	GBR	Joseph CHOONG	210
2	KOR	LEE Jihun	181
3	FRA	Valentin PRADES	176
4	GER	Marvin DOGUE	174
5	KOR	JUN Woongtae	167
6	UKR	Pavlo TYMOSHCHENKO	167
7	GBR	Jamie COOKE	162
8	FRA	Valentin BELAUD	160
9	CHN	LI Shuhuan	155
10	RUS	Alexander LIFANOV	148
11	HUN	Adam MAROSI	145
12	GER	Christian ZILLEKENS	145
13	RUS	Alexander LESUN	145
14	LTU	Justinas KINDERIS	140
15	GER	Patrick DOGUE	137
16	GER	Fabian LIEBIG	135
17	CHI	Esteban BUSTOS	134
18	CZE	Martin VLACH	134
19	KOR	JUNG Jinhwa	134
20	EGY	Eslam HAMAD	133

WOMEN			
RANK	NATION	NAME	POINTS
1	FRA	Elodie CLOUVEL	195
2	LTU	Laura ASADAUSKAITE	195
3	GBR	Kate FRENCH	186
4	GER	Annika SCHLEU	179
5	RUS	Gulnaz GUBAYDULLINA	173
6	ITA	Elena MICHELI	173
7	BLR	Volha SILKINA	172
8	GBR	Joanna MUIR	162
9	LTU	Gintare VENCKAUSKAITE	161
10	KOR	KIM Sunwoo	157
11	FRA	Marie OTEIZA	156
12	TUR	Ilke OZYUKSEL	155
13	RUS	Uliana BATASHOVA	153
14	BLR	Iryna PRASIANTSOVA	150
15	MEX	Mariana ARCEO	145
16	JPN	Natsumi TAKAMIYA	142
17	ITA	Alice SOTERO	141
18	HUN	Tamara ALEKSZEJEV	139
19	RUS	Anna BURIK	137
20	BLR	Anastasiya PROKOPENKO	137

The full New Balance World Rankings are available at [www.pentathlon.org](http://www.pentathlon.org)



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."*

### UIPM HEADQUARTERS

Stade Louis II – Entrée E  
13 avenue des Castelans, MC-98000 Monaco  
Tel. +377 97 77 85 55 | Fax +377 97 77 85 50  
E-mail: [uipm@pentathlon.org](mailto:uipm@pentathlon.org)

### WEB

[www.pentathlon.org](http://www.pentathlon.org)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

/WorldPentathlon

@WorldPentathlon

/vivamodernpentathlon

/theuipm

/uipmtv

@国际现代五项联盟