Spectators watch the action unfold within the Pentathlon Arena at Kincsem Park in Budapest (HUN), where all five Pentathlon disciplines were on show.
Four athletes gain qualification for Olympic Games as two worlds come together in Budapest (HUN)

Four more pentathletes secured places at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the climax of the biggest UIPM Sports competition ever organised.

The UIPM 2019 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Budapest (HUN) brought together UIPM’s core Olympic sport and its most popular development sport for the first time. More than 800 athletes from over 40 countries compete within the custom-built Pentathlon Arena in Kincsem Park, where spectators packed into the main tribune throughout seven days of intense competition.

The quartet who earned the right to become Olympians next year (pending the UIPM qualification criteria) were the women’s gold and silver medallists, Volha Silkina of Belarus and Elena Micheli of Italy, and the men’s gold and bronze medallists, Valentin Belaud of France and Jun Woongtae of Korea.

The Pentathlon World Championships was televised live or ‘as live’ in 144 countries, with a total of 133 hours of coverage secured by TV networks. This amounted to a total potential reach of 431 million homes.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “It was wonderful to be in the beautiful capital city of Budapest for one of the most important competitions in the long history of our sporting movement.

“We had excellent horses and great performances, and the many spectators from Hungary created a special atmosphere. To have the pool within the Pentathlon Arena like we did last year in Mexico City, I think it was super and we also enjoyed a memorable UIPM Annual Awards gala dinner and the 2nd UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day.

“We were honoured to welcome our Honorary President, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, here in Budapest where there was such a special atmosphere - it truly felt like the Olympic Games. Our 1st Vice President Juan Antonio Samaranch, who is also the IOC Vice President, said: ‘What a great sport we are presenting to the Olympic Family.’

“I would like to thank the local organising committee and everybody from the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association who contributed to the success of this ambitious project.

“Combining the two championships is not easy for an organiser but the Hungarians are a special pillar in our Union and therefore we could trust them to create a Pentathlon Arena where all five disciplines of the Pentathlon can be viewed by spectators from the same seat.

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<th>ROAD TO TOKYO: 2020 OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS</th>
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Subject to Tokyo 2020 qualification criteria. Visit www.pentathlon.org/olympic-games
“We had observers from Xiamen in China here, and they have seen a good presentation of our sport to use as a platform for the UIPM 2020 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.”

Seventeen of the 36 participants in both the men’s and women’s Olympic Pentathlon competition have now been confirmed, with 19 opportunities remaining. The next opportunity to qualify will be the Asia/Oceania Championships and Olympic Qualifier Championships in Whuan (CHN) in November 2019, where six more places for each gender will be at stake.

Women’s Relay: Mexico strike first thanks to Arceo & Oliver

In 2018 Mexico hosted the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships in the capital Mexico City and the positive vibes seem to have been reverberating ever since.

In April Manuel Padilla (MEX) won a breakthrough gold at UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Sofia, and three months later Mariana Arceo (MEX) became Pan American champion in Lima (PER) and qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

On September 2, Arceo (MEX) savoured that golden feeling once again as she joined Mayan Oliver in winning the Women’s Relay on day one of the UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

The Mexican duo started the Laser Run third but pushed Kim Unju and Jeong Mina of Korea back and then overtook hosts Hungary, consigning Luca Barta and Kamilla Reti to silver.

Medallists’ reaction

Arceo (MEX) said: “I think every discipline was fine, it was good, and I am very happy because the competition all around us was very hard and strong.

“The Pan American Games was successful for me because of the Olympic qualification, and I am very happy to be here competing at the World Championships.”

Her team-mate Oliver (MEX) added: “I am really happy with the work we’ve done with our coaches and with my team-mates. I’m very excited.”

The two Hungary teams benefited from the backing of a home crowd inside the specially constructed Pentathlon Arena at Kincsem Park.

Barta (HUN) said: “I think we are really happy. We didn’t expect the silver medal and I think we gave our best today. It was incredible. It’s very important that we are at home, and the crowd was very supportive in every discipline, especially the Laser Run.”

Reti (HUN) added: “All our events were good today, especially Fencing. Now I’m looking forward to taking part in the Laser Run World Championships later in the week.”

Swimming

The 2019 World Championships began with an incredibly intense swimming battle in the temporary pool installed in the field of play at Kincsem Park, where nine teams scored between 300 and 304 points.

Zhang Mingyu and Gu Yewen of China managed the fastest time (2:03.07), narrowly quicker than the world junior champions, Adelina Ibatullina and...
Ksenia Fraltsova of Russia (2:03.19) and the Ireland duo of Kate Coleman Lenehan and Eilidh Prise (2:03.66).

Fencing
The Fencing Ranking Round was dominated by three nations, with Korea (Kim/Jeong) emerging on top with 32V/16D and another two points added in the Bonus Round.

Hungary (Barta/Reti) and Mexico (Oliver/Arceo) each managed 30V/18D, with the home team inspiring hope of a medal among the home supporters.

Riding
There was euphoria in the stands as Hungary (Barta/Reti) scored the best round of the day, an exceptional 297 points with only three time penalties conceded.

Mexico (Oliver/Arceo) also stayed in contention for the world title with an excellent 291 and Ireland (Coleman Lenehan/Prise) moved up four places from 8th to 4th overall with 288.

Korea (Kim/Jeong) also ensured their good Fencing work would not to go to waste as they scored 283 alongside the Czech Republic duo of Barbora Ciprova and Karolina Krenkova.

Laser Run
Hungary (Barta/Reti) started first but with only a 2secs advantage over Korea (Kim/Jeong), with Mexico (Oliver/Arceo) a further 11secs behind.

Mexico (Oliver/Arceo) seized the day with an excellent 12:58.23 that saw them home in first place with a 9sec margin over Hungary (Barta/Reti), while Korea (Kim/Jeong) made sure nobody could deny them bronze.

Ireland (Coleman Lenehan/Prise), who won European silver in 2018, finished 4th after holding off a strong bid by the second-string Hungary duo Sarolta Simon and Blanka Guzi, whose time of 12:54.92 was the fastest of the day.

Men’s Relay: Dogue & Nobis (GER) stand up to scrutiny

The Olympic champion stood between them and gold but Germany refused to be intimidated as they stormed to victory in the Men’s Relay on day two.

As well as Alexander Lesun of Russia, Alexander Nobis and Patrick Dogue (GER) were also up against Asia’s top two athletes in Jung Jinhwa and Jun Woongtae of Korea, but they kept their levels high throughout all disciplines to become worthy world champions.

Korea (Jung/Jun) pulled off a superb Laser Run to win silver, while Lesun and Danil Kalimullin (RUS) stayed strong to claim bronze. Belarus (Yaraslau Radziuk & Kirill Kasyanik), France (Alexandre henrard & Jean-Baptiste Mouriau) and Egypt (Mohannad Shaban & Ahmed Hamed) completed the top six.

Medallists’ reaction

Dogue (GER) added: “In every discipline we did a good job. We won the Fencing and for us in Swimming, we had a really good time, and then we also won the Riding with a clear round.

“The Laser Run is our strongest discipline and we started in first place, so we knew we just had to keep going and it would be fine.”

Nobis (GER) said: “It’s always good to win a competition and when it’s the World Championships, even better. We had such a good day, everything was perfect. It’s always nice to compete in a Pentathlon Arena like this, it’s really cool.”

Silver medallist Jung (KOR) said: “The beginning was not great, but as time went by we worked together to achieve a great result and we are really happy about that. It’s great to have all disciplines in one arena, and all the facilities here are very good.”

His team-mate Jun (KOR) added: “Our Laser Run was really great, it’s definitely our best discipline.”

Bronze medallist Kalimullin (RUS) said: “I’m very happy because it’s my first senior medal, I only had junior medals until now. I had a very long break because of injury and now I’m happy because it’s a World Championships.”

Swimming
The pace was set by Great Britain in the Swimming pool, as Myles Pilage and Oliver Murray dominated with a winning time of 1min 44.16sec.

The United States ranked 2nd with a time of 1:47.66 thanks to Amro Elgeziry and Tyler Evans, while Korea (Jung/Jun) also performed well with 1:48.29.

Fencing
Germany (Nobis/Dogue) emerged as the kings of the piste thanks to a commanding score of 23V/13D, while Russia (Lesun/Kalimullin) stayed in touch with 23V/13D and three nations managed 21 victories.
They were China (Luo Shuai & Zhang Linbin), Poland (Łukasz Gutkowski & Daniel Lawrynowicz) and Korea (Jung/Jun), but the latter suffered a 10-point penalty and ended up with just 216 points. China (Zhang/Luo) added three victories in the Bonus Round to be the last team standing.

Riding
Far from relinquishing their lead, Germany (Nobis/Dogue) only enhanced their gold-medal chances with an exceptional ride, scoring 297 out of a maximum 300. Belarus (Radziuk/Kasyanik) managed the same score and Russia (Lesun/Kalimulin) refused to let the leaders get away, putting 294 on the board.

The overall race opened up a little as a number of contenders suffered damage to their prospects. China (Zhang/Luo) and Poland (Gutkowski/Lawrynowicz) conceded 53 and 61 penalties respectively, while USA (Elgeziry/Evans) were eliminated after Evans (USA) suffered too many refusals.

Laser Run
Germany (Nobis/Dogue) started with a 15sec lead over Russia (Lesun/Kalimulin), with Belarus (Radziuk/Kasyanik) a further 23sec behind and Korea (Jung/Jun) lurking behind them in 4th. Jun (KOR) made his move into the bronze-medal position at the second shoot, but Germany (Nobis/Dogue) and Lesun (RUS) held their positions without undue difficulty.

It was when Kalimulin (RUS) took over from the Olympic champion that Jung (KOR) sensed his opportunity, and he exploited the youngster’s struggles at the final shoot to move past him into the silver-medal position.

One of the highlights of the Laser Run was a rapid circuit by world junior champion Mourcia (FRA), who along with Henrard (FRA) set the fastest time of 10:34. Korea (Jun/Jung) completed the course in 10:46.

Women’s Final: Silkiná (BLR) claims the crown
Volha Silkiná became the second women’s world champion in two years from Belarus in two years as she left the competition trailing at Kincsem Park.

The 24-year-old followed in the footsteps of 2018 champion Anastasiya Prokopenko (BLR), who finished 4th and secured a share of team gold along with 17th-placed Iryna Prasiantsova (BLR).

Silkiná (BLR) had been the dominant athlete for much of the day, scoring an exceptional 270 points in Fencing and enjoying a clear ride. She protected her 31sec lead in Laser Run without alarm, as the battle raged behind her.

After an epic duel with bronze medallist Kate French of Great Britain, Elena Micheli of Italy finished second to secure a silver medal that had more significance than usual.

By finishing in the top three, Micheli (ITA) and Silkiná (BLR) secured qualification places for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. French (GBR) already claimed her place by winning silver at the European Championships.

Medallists’ reaction
Silkiná (BLR) said after receiving her gold medal: “I can’t believe it yet, I have a lot of emotions. We will see what happens next year because we have two very strong pentathletes and we already have two qualifications for Tokyo 2020.

In the European Championships I took the 6th place but I didn’t execute my skills properly. I knew that the World Championships was my last chance to secure a place for Belarus so that we could look forward to Tokyo in an easy way.”

Aged 20, Micheli (ITA) found herself on the podium at senior level only two years after winning the world junior title. She said: “It’s incredible and there are no words to describe how I feel. When I left Italy I said to myself, ‘This isn’t your World Championships, silver medallist. Team silver went to Great Britain (French, Joanna Muir and Francesca Summers) and bronze to Germany (Schleu, Rebecca Langrehr and Janine Kohlmann).”

Behind the top four, Anrika Schieu of Germany finished strongly as usual to claim 5th place and Eloise Clouvel of France completed the top six. The quest for Tokyo 2020 qualification continues for the Rio 2016 Olympic final. It’s synchronised diving as the Swimming gets under way in the Women’s Final
you are young and there will be many more.'

“I can’t explain this. I just decided to concentrate on simple things and not think big. No pressure. The running track is quite hard, but I am so happy with this performance.”

French (GBR) added: “I couldn’t be happier. After Europeans it was quite hard to get going again so I’m so pleased that I managed to pull out another good performance.

“I will sit down with the coaches now to make plans for Tokyo but it’s still not guaranteed that I will be there because we have a strong team. I will take a well-earned break now, take some time off and look forward to next season.”

Swimming

Gulnaz Gubaydullina of Russia is no stranger to success in the Swimming pool but she was pushed all the way by Alice Sotero (ITA). Gubaydullina (RUS), the 2017 world champion, timed 2:07.95 with just a slim margin of victory over Sotero (ITA, 2:08.11).

It was also close for 3rd and 4th as Clouvel (FRA, 2:08.45) narrowly beat Sarolta Kovacs of Hungary (2:08.62) to the touch.

Fencing

To have one athlete at the top of the leaderboard in Fencing is a satisfying moment for any team, but Belarus had a double helping of joy as Silkina and Prasiantsova topped the standings.

Silkina (BLR) was the queen of the piste as she scored 28V/7D in the Ranking Round and took the scalp of Clouvel (FRA) in the final bout of the Bonus Round, adding two points to her overall score.

Prasiantsova (BLR) achieved 26V/9D, one more victory than Clouvel (FRA) and Kim Sunwoo of Korea. Also prominent were French (GBR) and Micheli (ITA), each of whom scored 24V/11D. Laura

Asadauskaitė of Lithuania, who was aiming for an exceptional golden treble after winning the UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Final and the European Championships, suffered an injury that prevented her from taking any further part in the competition.

Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Oktawia Nowacka of Poland also did not start the Riding event.

Riding

As Riding took centre stage at the heart of the Pentathlon Arena, Silkina (BLR) strengthened her prospects even further with a clear round, one of only five on the day.

Like Kovacs (HUN) and Shino Yamana of Japan, the overall leader only conceded time penalties, while Langrehr (GER) and Gubaydullina (RUS) were the two athletes who managed a perfect score of 300.

Clouvel (FRA) had a major scare when her horse pulled out of a jump halfway through and took out the obstacle. As Kim (KOR) faded, more established athletes began to gain ground on Micheli (ITA), but the 20-year-old showed remarkable steel to maintain her position, especially on the final lap after French (GBR) briefly overtook her.

Behind them, there were some valiant bids for the podium from the likes of Prokopenko (BLR) and Schlieu (GER), while Gintare Venckauskaite (LTU) and Muir (GBR) timed under 2:10 for their Laser Run, but this day was destined to be a tale of new pretenders.

Men’s Final: The second coming of Belaud (FRA)

Valentin Belaud of France has had a frustrating three years since becoming world champion in 2016, but it all washed away as he crossed the line at Kincsem Park.

As Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Elodie Clouvel danced with joy above the finish line, her boyfriend Belaud (FRA) stood on top of the world for the second time, securing qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in the process.

Jun Woongtae of Korea also seized the prize of Olympic qualification as he...
won the bronze medal, and it would have been silver if not for the incredible finishing speed of an athlete who has truly come of age this season.

Joseph Choong of Great Britain already had his Olympic place, subject to the UIPM qualification criteria, after winning gold at the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Final. He also finished 4th at the European Championships, and his trademark sprint was too much in the end for the impressive Jun (KOR).

Behind them, Lee Jihun (KOR) finished 4th with a team gold medal for Korea, while Robert Kasza of Hungary claimed 5th place and Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Pavlo Tymoshchenko of Ukraine completed the top six.

Kasza (HUN) was joined on the podium by Adam Manosi (HUN) and Bence Demeter (HUN) as the host nation celebrated team silver, and Choong (GBR) claimed bronze alongside 2018 world champion Jamie Cooke (GBR) and Tom Toolis (GBR).

Medallists’ reaction
Belaud (FRA) said after receiving his gold medal: “My friend told me before the Laser Run, ‘you have four 800m runs and four shooting series, it’s your job’, and I’m so happy I did it.

‘My girlfriend, Elodie Clouvel, didn’t win yesterday and today I won this for her. My third shoot was great, and I’m so grateful for the public support. In Hungary we have a great atmosphere. I’m also thankful to the French people who came here.’

Silver medallist Choong (GBR) said: ‘If you had told me anyone would have a season like this, let alone me, I wouldn’t have believed you. I can’t believe I’ve finished top five in every competition and won medals at the World Cup Final, the European and World Championships.

‘Even though it’s the end of the season I’m feeling really fit. I eased off a little in the semi-finals to be fresh for today. My second shoot was getting me down a bit, but I had enough left to claim silver.’

Jun (KOR) added: “My goal was to claim the ticket for Tokyo and that’s what I did, so that’s why I’m so happy today. I wanted to win silver and it was a bit disappointing when [Choong] came past me at the end. I will beat him next time.”

Swimming
Having already secured an Olympic qualification place with his stunning win in the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Final, Choong (GBR) is in the form of his life and he proved it again with a superb swim in the temporary pool within Budapest’s Pentathlon Arena.

Choong (GBR) hit the wall in 1min 55.19sec, defeating his compatriot Cooke (GBR) by 0.84sec and with a big margin to the next-fastest swimmer, Marek Grycz of Czech Republic, who ducked under 2min with 1:59.81.

Fencing
An awesome performance in the Fencing Ranking Round by Lee (KOR) enabled him to take a convincing lead. His 26V/9D stood out with three more victories than his compatriot Jung Jinhwa (KOR) and Belaud (FRA), while Ilya Palazkov (BLR) scored 22V/13D.

In the Bonus Round, Vladislav Sukharev of Kazakhstan scored five victories and there were three apiece for Kasza (HUN) and Tymoshchenko (UKR).

Belaud (FRA) added two scalps and Lee (KOR) was the last man standing after adding two points to his overall score.

Riding
The standard was high in the Pentathlon Arena, at least until some of the leaders mounted their horses. It was a painful experience for the Korean athletes in first and second place, as Jung (KOR) conceded 36 penalty points and Lee (KOR) dropped 35, relegating both back into the pack.

Six riders were able to celebrate a perfect score of 300, with two others achieving a clear round. Kasza (HUN) and Demeter (HUN) stimulated the home crowd into a frenzy as they achieved the maximum score, along with Fabian Liebig of Germany, Danil Kalimullin of Russia and Pavel Tokhanau (BLR).

Somehow, despite a nervous and
at times static performance, Belaud (FRA) also joined the 300 club, earning himself the overall lead.

Laser Run
Belaud (FRA) started ahead of Choong (GBR) but only by a 2sec margin. The two leaders had a 14sec cushion over the chasing pack consisting of Lee and Jun (KOR), Kasza and Marosi (HUN), with Justinas Kinderis of Lithuania and Palazkov (BLR) very close behind them.

Choong (GBR) immediately made up the deficit at the first visit to the range, and the top two left together – whereupon Belaud (FRA) showed his rival a clean pair of heels. He quickly stretched away from Choong (GBR) and steadily increased his lead on each 800m lap, confirming his composure with a 7sec third shoot. A cool head and steady hand at the final shoot enabled him to enjoy a victory lap on the final circuit, wrapping himself in the French flag.

The Korean men have had a quiet 2019 season, seldom featuring at the business end of UIPM competitions, but today was the day they came out of their shell and it was Jun (KOR) who best controlled his nerves with an excellent Laser Run.

He bolted past Choong (GBR) at the second shoot, then continued to extend his lead, only to find that the World Cup Final champion had not misplaced his trademark fast finish. Choong (GBR) muscled past another victim on the final bend to earn a satisfying silver.

Mixed Relay: Abdelmaksoud & Hamad (EGY) show class
They had the world champion and the female pentathlete of the year chasing them, but there was no stopping Egypt on the final day of the 2019 championships.

Wearing smiles as wide as the Danube, Salma Abdelmaksoud and Eslam Hamad (EGY) celebrated a mighty victory that was all the more impressive for the identity of the athletes who joined them on the podium.

Silver went to the celebrated France duo of Elodie Clouvel and Valentin Belaud. Twenty-four hours earlier, Belaud (FRA) had been crowned Men’s Individual world champion for the second time and his girlfriend Clouvel (FRA) was named Female Pentathlete of the Year at the UIPM 2019 Annual Awards (see full list of winners below).

Bronze went to Belarus after good partnership work between Anastasiya Prokopenko, the 2018 world champion and Female Pentathlete of the Year, and Ilya Palazkov.

Medallists’ reaction
Hamad (EGY) said: “I feel fantastic. It’s my first gold medal in the Mixed Relay. I had a silver medal in 2017 in the Men’s Relay with my team-mate, and today we were aiming just to be on the podium to repeat the glory we had in Egypt two years ago.

“Today was an unbelievable day – we managed to lead the competition from the beginning, which is a very new experience for me. I want to say thank you to all my supporters, my coaches, the federation and my family. I had a very good competition in the individual, with a top-eight finish, which is very good preparation for Tokyo and I hope I can keep up.”

Silver medallist Clouvel (FRA) said: “I’m so happy to finish with a medal from these World Championships, and with Valentin. My partner is perfect, he’s the world champion, and I’m so happy and proud of this medal.”

Palazkov (BLR) added: “I can run. I was starting to catch Belaud at the second shooting, but he is so powerful. We had a really good shooting and we’re happy with 3rd place. We just had fun.”

Swimming
Expectations were high in the home crowd after two medal-free days for...
Hungary, and there was a strong start in the pool as Michelle Gulyas and Bence Kardos set the fastest time of 1min 54.98sec.

Russia (Gulnaz Gubaydullina and Alexander Lifanov) were next-fastest with 1:55.87 and four more teams broke the 1:58 barrier – Great Britain (Jessica Varley & Joseph Choong), Cuba (Leidis Moya & Lester Ders), United States (Heidi Hendrick & Sam Ruddock) and France (Clouvel/Belaud).

Fencing
It was on the piste that Egypt (Abdelmaksoud/Hamad) asserted themselves on the competition, scoring a remarkable 33V/7D. That gave them a hefty overall lead, even though Russia (Gubaydullina/Lifanov) added two bonus points after ending the Ranking Round with 27D/13D.

Riding
The Riding event was not without drama and the hopes of Belarus (Prokopenko/Palazkov) and China (Zhong Xiuting & Li Shuhuan) each managed 24V/16D.

Laser Run
Abdelmaksoud (EGY) shot well on both visits to the range, but her running speed was sluggish compared to that of Schlieu (GER), who cut into her lead significantly. But when the leader handed over to her partner, Hamad (EGY) set off like a hare on his first lap and it looked all but certain that the gold would be heading to North Africa.

Further back, there was an intriguing battle between Belaud (FRA) and Palazkov (BLR), eventually won by the 2016 and 2019 new world champion. The fastest time of the day was set by Belarus (Prokopenko/Palazkov, 11:06.10).

Women’s Laser Run: Hungary and Egypt dominate
Host nation Hungary had the edge over Egypt on a dramatic day of women and girls’ competition at the UIPM 2019 Laser Run World Championships.

With Kamilla Reti (HUN) becoming the new world champion, the home team collected six gold medals and 12 in total. Egypt dominated the junior categories and claimed 10 medals, five of them gold.

Reti (HUN) was joined on the podium by her silver medallist team-mate Sarolta Simon (HUN), while 2019 European champion and 2018 world silver medallist Pinelopi Nika of Greece won bronze after overcoming a challenge from 4th-placed Noah Berkman of Israel.

The junior gold medal went to Blanka Guzi (HUN), a bronze medalist from the 2018 championships in Dublin (IRL), with Changhin Mukapha of Thailand winning silver and Eva Prato Luna of Great Britain picking up bronze.

Eleven nations in total won medals across the 10 age categories, with Great Britain securing eight medals and South Africa and Germany picking up two golds each. The other nations to enjoy podium time were Belarus,
France, Portugal and Spain. UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “It was wonderful to see the high level of performances today in the Laser Run categories for women and girls. It was exciting to see how quickly the young athletes sprinted to the shooting range at the start, how quickly they completed their shots and then to see the quality of their running style.

“This shows that after five years of the UIPM Laser Run World Championships, the standards improve every year and we can now see that athletes of all ages are training specifically for this discipline every week. Now we have to do everything we can to provide opportunities for them to become pentathletes.

"Many of the more senior athletes said it was unbelievable to see what the kids were doing on the shooting range. Maybe they are able to fire with more freedom, without thinking about it. The cheering from the tribune contributed to a great atmosphere and motivated the athletes to really push hard."

Some of the youngest male athletes display their running and shooting technique

Men’s Laser Run: Hungary and France gather glory

Hungary completed the senior double but France gave the host nation a run for their money on day two of the championships. Richard Bereczki (HUN) became senior men’s world champion in front of his home crowd, emulating the success of Kamilla Reti (HUN) in the women’s final on day one.

Bereczki (HUN) was joined on the podium by bronze medallist team-mate Tamas Bence Frohlich (HUN), while Joan Gispert of Spain won silver. But while Hungary topped the table again on day two with 12 medals including five golds, France also had a fine day with five gold medals of their own, including the junior world title.

That was won by Kylian Perrier (FRA), who held off a strong challenge from Eduardo Oliveira of Portugal to break the tape. Csaba Bohm (HUN) claimed bronze.

In the youth categories, Egypt were typically strong and their team finished the day with six medals including three gold.

Across all age categories, Great Britain performed superbly with 11 medals including four golds, and there was one new world title each for Portugal, South Africa, Italy and Austria.

UIPM Executive Board Member for Development, Dr Viacheslav Malishev, said: “Today we witnessed another successful day at the UIPM Laser Run World Championships, and we saw a great deal of emotion from parents and other family members greeting their children.

“Looking at the countries that were represented on the podium, it was interesting to see how many young athletes are willing to jump from Laser Run to Modern Pentathlon – they are interested in our multi-sports like Biathle, Triatle and Tetrathlon.

“We saw success for traditional Pentathlon countries like France, Egypt and of course Hungary, but also we saw young athletes from Nepal, from Thailand, from South Africa.

“A lot of countries are winning medals, which is difficult to do in Pentathlon, and they can win medals in individual and team categories. It underlines that Laser Run is a very good tool for development.”

Success for Tamas Gajdos (HUN) in the Masters +60 category

France, Portugal and Spain. UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “It was wonderful to see the high level of performances today in the Laser Run categories for women and girls. It was exciting to see how quickly the young athletes sprinted to the shooting range at the start, how quickly they completed their shots and then to see the quality of their running style.

“This shows that after five years of the UIPM Laser Run World Championships, the standards improve every year and we can now see that athletes of all ages are training specifically for this discipline every week. Now we have to do everything we can to provide opportunities for them to become pentathletes.

"Many of the more senior athletes said it was unbelievable to see what the kids were doing on the shooting range. Maybe they are able to fire with more freedom, without thinking about it. The cheering from the tribune contributed to a great atmosphere and motivated the athletes to really push hard."
Mixed Relay Laser Run: Gold for Olympic Idol Nowacka and Gutkowski (POL)

Laser Run was designed as a stepping stone to the Olympic Modern Pentathlon and the two worlds met during the final day of the 5th UIPM Laser Run World Championships.

It was Mixed Relay day in Budapest and the Rio 2016 Olympic Games bronze medallist, Oktawia Nowacka of Poland, teamed up with Tokyo 2020 Olympic qualifier Łukasz Gutkowski to become world champions.

The Polish duo defeated the local favourites, 2019 individual champions Kamilla Reti and Richard Bereczki of Hungary, by 5.78sec in the Senior Mixed Relay while Sondos Aboubakr and Ahmed Hamed of Egypt won the bronze medal.

There was a second gold medal of the week for Blanka Guzi (HUN) in the Junior Mixed Relay, alongside Csaba Bohm. Egypt (Amira Kandil & Mohanad Shaban) won silver and Portugal (Sara Antunes & Eduardo Oliveira) took the bronze.

Host nation Hungary won six medals on the final day, three golds and three silver, while Egypt managed the same total (three gold, one silver, two bronze). There were golds for Great Britain, France, South Africa and Denmark.

UIPM Executive Board Member for Development, Dr Viacheslav Malishev, said: “It was wonderful to see so much passion and determination from athletes of all ages taking part in the Mixed Relays at the 5th UIPM Laser Run World Championships here in Budapest.

“The combination of Laser Run and Pentathlon has been a great success and we are already looking forward to the UIPM 2020 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in Xiamen, China.

In the meantime, there are so many opportunities for people from communities in all cities and towns around the world to get involved in Laser Run, thanks to the UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour.”
Elodie Clouvel of France and Joseph Choong of Great Britain won the top prizes of Best Female and Male Athlete respectively at the UIPM 2019 Annual Awards Gala Dinner in Budapest on September 7.

Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt won the Best Junior Male Pentathlete for the second year in succession, while the Best Junior Female award went to Rebecca Langrehr of Germany.

All four of the individual athlete awards were subject to an online public vote. There were Development Awards for Thailand and Peru and a Best Contribution for experienced UIPM technical delegate and coach Bernhard Petruschinski (GER).

UIPM’s Honorary President, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, was personally welcomed into the UIPM Hall of Fame a year after being officially inducted in Limassol (CYP).
2nd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day

Founder of Modern Pentathlon celebrated in Budapest (HUN) ... and now it’s your turn!

A special ceremony took place on the podium during the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships to mark the 2nd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day.

This annual celebration in honour of the sport’s founder was approved at the UIPM 2017 Congress in Tbilisi (GEO) and was officially inaugurated in 2018 in Mexico City (MEX).

In the presence of UIPM Honorary President HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, Pierre de Coubertin Medals were presented to Dr Gyula Bretz, President of the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association, and to Rio 2016 Olympic champions Alexander Lesun (RUS) and Chloe Esposito (AUS).

The Mixed Relay takes stage at the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships (above) on Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day, as UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann presents the Pierre de Coubertin Medal to Chloe Esposito of Australia (Kitty Chiller received on her behalf) and Honorary President HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco confers the same honour on Alexander Lesun of Russia (coach received on his behalf).

The award for Esposito (AUS) was accepted on her behalf by Kitty Chiller, President of the Oceania Modern Pentathlon Confederation, while the prize for Lesun (RUS) was collected by XX.

Among the dignitaries on the stage was Alexandra de Navacelle Coubertin, a direct descendant of the founder of Modern Pentathlon who sits on the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Commission and the International Olympic Committee’s Commission for Culture and Olympic Heritage.

The 2nd Pentathlon Day acted as a launchpad for the #High5 campaign, which encourages people to show support for Coubertin’s legacy by publishing a #High5 on social media.

Dr Gyula Bretz, President of the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association, receives his Pierre de Coubertin Medal from Alexandra de Navacelle Coubertin, a direct descendant of the visionary who founded Modern Pentathlon and introduced it to the world at the Stockholm 1912 Olympic Games.
Laser Run enjoyed a spectacular introduction at the 1st World Urban Games, a multi-sport festival created by the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).

UIPM’s most popular development sport was one of just eight sports on the programme at Budapest’s Great Market Hall (Nagyvasartelep) from September 13-15.

Many of the world’s leading pentathletes, including world champions Anastasiya Prokopenko of Belarus and Valentin Belaud of France, gathered to take on Laser Run specialists in a Sprint Laser Run (4 x 400m) format.

Alongside the elite showcase on all three days there was a youth engagement programme with 840 pupils from 20 local schools (aged eight to 14) included in try-out sessions and invited on to the field of play to get a taste for UIPM’s urban sporting phenomenon.

Prokopenko (BLR), Jessica Varley of Great Britain, Ilke Ozyuksel of Turkey and the Hungary duo of Kamilla Reti and Blanka Guzi emerged as the best performers on the women’s side.

Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt dominated the men’s individual competition, with Yaraslau Radziuk (BLR), Gergely Regos (HUN) and Tom O’Brien of Ireland also emerging with credit.

Elgendy (EGY) added: “I was very happy and very proud to represent Egypt at the first edition of the World Urban Games here in Hungary. It was a nice competition and very well organised and I was so happy to win certificates after competing with the fastest Laser Runners in the world.

“I prefer the longer distance (800m) because it gives me an advantage. We don’t usually train to run at this speed, but it was amazing!”

Seoul 1988 Olympic gold medallist Attila Miszer (HUN) hailed the promotion of our sport, especially amongst younger athletes. He’s true that the fact that some athletes who travel to this sort of competition, and to meet the younger ones is something great.

“To be able to speak to us, share advice with them … I think we are doing the right thing. When I was a kid, to meet the star athletes was the reason that gave me motivation to train harder to reach a high level. So I’m happy we can help.”

Varley (GBR) commented: “I absolutely love the sprint format. My speed is definitely my strength so I really enjoy it, and the shooting is so much more important in this format than when it’s full distance. It’s great practice and I’ve really enjoyed it.”

Seoul 1988 Olympic gold medallist Attila Miszer (HUN) hailed the emerging
The leading performers are presented with their certificates

Competition is fierce between women athletes from the start line


gence of Laser Run as a “great foundation of our sport” during the competition.

Mizser was central to the organisation of the 2019 World Urban Games in his capacity as Sports Director. He is a huge advocate of Laser Run, which is rapidly increasing participation rates in UIPM Sports and helping to increase the number of athletes who take part in Modern Pentathlon.

He said: “I think Laser Run is a great foundation for the future of our sport. As spectators here in Budapest could see, it can be organised wherever you want to – even in an office building with the shorter format.

“The targets and the pistols are absolutely secure and you can use it wherever you want to go. You can give it to people in parks, in urban environments and even buildings. That makes a Laser Run a very strong tool to reach out to people over the coming decades.

“Laser Run enables us to showcase and promote our stars. In our era, we could not have been stars except in Hungary which is a Pentathlon-loving nation. That’s why I think the Laser Run is an important marketing and promotional tool for us. Long live Laser Run ... and Modern Pentathlon!”

Laser Run was derived from the combined event that has become the climax of all Pentathlon and Tetrathlon competitions in recent years.

The first UIPM Laser Run World Championships took place in Perpignan (FRA) in 2015 and the UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour was introduced in 2017 to make the sport more accessible to urban communities worldwide.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “What we have witnessed at this 1st World Urban Games is really a great combination of different sports, and we could see how much the athletes and spectators loved our Laser Run format.

"Officials from GAISF also enjoyed it very much. We always say that you can’t appreciate how exciting Laser Run is until you have seen it. We had international athletes and Hungarian athletes and they really enjoyed the competition, in the individual races and the Mixed Relay where there were international combinations.

“The IOC Sport Director Kit McConnell, the GAISF President Raffaele Chiulli and the World Urban Games Sport Director, our Seoul 1988 Olympic Modern Pentathlon champion Attila Mizser, could see what we are doing in urban sport – and Laser Run truly belongs to urban sports.

“I thank to the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association for helping us again after the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships last week, and thanks to the athletes for everything they did in these days.

“This is a great presentation to the international sporting world, joining other urban sports, and we are so happy to be involved. GAISF can see that they have made a great decision. We will work hard to be included as a competition sport in the next World Urban Games in two years’ time.”

The other showcase sport on the programme was indoor rowing, while the six competition sports were BMX freestyle, roller freestyle, parkour, breaking, 3x3 basketball and flying disc freestyle.
As one of the busiest seasons in the history of UIPM Sports draws to a close, UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann reflects on the dramatic transformation the Modern Pentathlon movement has undergone in recent years.

A version of this Q&A article first appeared on Around The Rings.

Q: It’s been quite a busy few months. How did the Pan American Championships go?

A: The Pan American Games 2019 in Lima was a great showcase for Modern Pentathlon and we were delighted to have two additional medal events this year with the Men’s and Women’s Pentathlon and we were delighted to see Lima was a great showcase for Modern Pentathlon.

Q: How many athletes in total have now qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics?

A: We now have 17 places for men and 17 for women confirmed, so 34 from the total of 72. All selections are subject to the UIPM Olympic qualification criteria.

A special mention goes to Lithuania and Belarus, who have already secured the maximum two places for women, and Great Britain and France who have done the same on the men’s side.

Next we have the Asia/Oceania Championships and Olympic qualification event in Wuhan, China from November 13-21, where another six automatic places for each gender will be on offer (five from Asia and one from Oceania).

Q: The first combined Laser Run and Pentathlon World Championships took place in Budapest. How does the combined format work?

A: The first-ever combined UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships was a huge success which, if anything, actually exceeded our expectations. Already we heard so many positive words from athletes, coaches and families, many of whom travelled to Budapest to compete together with passion and determination and great team spirit in different age groups.

Arranging both world championships simultaneously is a challenging proposition for the local organisers, but we had a lot of faith in Hungary as they have been one of the pillars of our Union for many years, hosting the Pentathlon World Championships once in every decade since 1954 (1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2008 and 2019).

Our flagship competition has grown considerably since the last time it was here, especially in the presentation of the venue as a Pentathlon Arena where all five disciplines can be viewed by spectators from the same seat. The Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association organised a great World Championships for Modern Pentathlon and Laser Run in Kincsem Park.

On the weekend of September 6-8 we had not only the Laser Run and Modern Pentathlon finals but also the UIPM Annual Awards Gala Dinner (Sep 7) and the 2nd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day (Sep 8), coinciding with the Mixed Relay events. We were delighted to be joined by our Honorary President, HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, and our 1st Vice President and IOC Vice President Juan Antonio Samaranch, both of whom remarked that the scale of this championships made it feel like we were at the Olympic Games.

Other important guests included IF Presidents Sepp Fedril (FIL), Olle Dahlin (IBU), Hassan Moustaafa (IHF) and Marius Vizer (IJF), and IOC Members Pal Schmitt and Daniel Gyurta.

We were also delighted to welcome Luca Pancalli (IPC Executive Board Member), Krishztian Kulcsar (Hungary NOC President), Bram Schellegems (IOC Summer Sport Manager), International Fair Play Committee President Dr Jenő Kamuti and Secretary General Sunil Sabharwal, PASO Secretary General Ivar Sisniega, Xiamen Vice Mayor Mrs Guirong Guo, Pierre de Coubertin Foundation President Mrs Alexandra de Navacelle Coubertin and HIRH Archduke Georges of Habsburg-Lorraine.

On the Hungarian side we were joined by NOC President Krisztian Kulcsar and three Government Ministers, Dr Tunde Szabo (Sports Minister), Dr Balaz Furjes (State Secretary of Development) and Peter Sarfalvi (State Secretary of Sport).

Q: Laser Run is fairly new, but it seems to take up quite a few dates on the UIPM calendar. Tell us about it, and why it is so popular.

A: You are right, Laser Run was born as a standalone sport only in 2015 when the one-day format. In 1994 we changed from fire pistol to air pistol, in 2008 we created the combined run/shoot and in 2010 at the 1st Youth Olympic Games in Singapore
we introduced laser shooting. This transformed the environmental impact of our sport and made it safer and more sustainable.

In 2016 we introduced the Fencing Bonus Round with an elimination format that enables us to showcase fencing, which has been wireless since 2017. The Fencing Bonus Round and Laser Run have both become a thrilling centrepiece of every competition.

Apart from this evolution in the format, we have pushed hard to promote our Mixed Relay, which has become very popular among athletes since it was introduced at the YOG and World Championships in 2010. We are determined to achieve a reward for the efforts of nations who have helped us cultivate the Mixed Relay by adding athletes and nations who have helped us.

There will also be a large number of applications for UIPM membership to be approved. Our development team will now start work on finalising the rules of this format for approval by Congress in 2020.

Q: The UIPM 2020 Congress is set for China. Have you decided on a city?

A: The UIPM 2020 Congress will take place in Xiamen. This was approved by the UIPM Executive Board during a meeting in Budapest on September 5. Xiamen is a stunning urban paradise which will be a wonderful location for our Congress, where we will support every single National Federation to ensure at least one delegate from each nation will attend. We made this pledge in 2018 when Congress approved a motion to make this a biannual instead of annual event. We are focused on 150 NFs.

Q: What are some of the issues you will be dealing with?

A: Last week the UIPM Executive Board approved the concept of a New Tetrathlon format designed for the 4th Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal in 2022. A special working group will now start work on finalising the rules of this format for approval by Congress in 2020. There will also be a large number of applications for UIPM membership to be approved. Our development team and myself are strongly recruiting new member nations as we aim for a target of 150 national federations linked to the UIPM Congress in November 2020 in Xiamen. I’m sure there will be many other interesting motions on the table for Congress to debate and decide.

Q: Modern Pentathlon doesn’t appear to have a big problem with doping. Can you explain why?

A: The most important thing to say is that we have a rigorous anti-doping system that ensures we are doing everything in our power to preserve the reputation for fair play that has always been associated with this sport, and to protect clean athletes.

Q: Around the Rings recently published an article by Alan Abrahamson calling for shooting to be removed from the Olympic programme in light of mass killings in the States. How do you respond to people who would like to see shooting dropped from all Olympic disciplines?

There is an essential distinction to be drawn here. In 1994 we introduced air pistols and since 2010 we have only used laser pistols, shooting laser beams in the Olympic Modern Pentathlon since London 2012 and across all our multi-sports, rather than pellets or bullets.

We made this decision not only because of the negative association of using firearms, but for environmental reasons. Laser shooting is 100% safe and causes no damage to the environment, making it more attractive to young athletes (and their parents) and also more sustainable for organisers.

Q: There have been a lot of changes to the Olympic sport programme. What are you doing to make sure Modern Pentathlon isn’t dropped from the programme?

A: I hope the answers provided above will cover much of what we are doing! Our Olympic status is essential to the survival of this wonderful and unique sport, which is the only sport created especially for the Games by Baron Pierre de Coubertin when he introduced it in Stockholm in 1912. But we are no longer looking back in time, we are always looking forward and innovating to make sure our beloved sport appeals to new generations of athletes and viewers.

We have been guided very closely by the IOC Olympic Agenda 2020 in planning and implementing the recent changes to our format and those currently in the pipeline. We see our sport as a vehicle for unity, peace, education and democracy, and we don’t only want to be strong within the Olympic movement – we want the Olympic movement to be stronger as a result of our collective efforts.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to say?

A: The goals of UIPM are to follow the IOC Olympic Agenda 2020, to respect and follow the Olympic values, to promote clean sport, to protect the legacy of Pierre de Coubertin, to cultivate the interest of present and future generations, and to be represented worldwide through our various development sport and our core Olympic sport of Modern Pentathlon.

I started as UIPM President on July 1, 1995 in London with 63 NFs, and in 2020 we will have 150. I think that our Union is growing based on innovation and modernisation with many different multi-sport combinations.

Laser Run is a new highlight and our sport appeals to new generations of athletes and viewers. We have been guided very closely by the IOC Olympic Agenda 2020 in planning and implementing the recent changes to our format and those currently in the pipeline. We see our sport as a vehicle for unity, peace, education and democracy, and we don’t only want to be strong within the Olympic movement – we want the Olympic movement to be stronger as a result of our collective efforts.
UIPM 2019 Global Laser Run City Tour

The Olympic city of Barcelona embraced Laser Run not once but twice in the summer of 2019, engaging more than 1,000 children in UIPM’s most popular development sport.

More than 600 young athletes from 30 schools flocked to the Esportiu ‘Mar Bella’ complex near the beach for the first Global Laser Run City Tour, kickstarting a successful week in one of Spain’s biggest cities and the capital of Catalonia.

The second GLRCT had a strong Olympic resonance as it took place at the Anella Olimpica de Montjuic, within the sports facilities created or redesigned on the mountainside when the city hosted the 1992 Olympic Summer Games. This event drew 522 participants from 36 schools, confirming the mass appeal and inclusive nature of Laser Run in all urban communities where sport is encouraged.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “As a relatively small sports federation, Laser Run gives us the opportunity to organize competitions that can engage between 500 and 1,000 children – which was unthinkable until this format was created. This gives us a very strong impulse to promote our sports and draw more athletes to our sport.

“At the end of the day, the feeling of happiness comes when all the teachers send us their congratulations in relation to the event, and above all for making boys and girls participate with a desire to have fun together, despite their differing ages.

“We are thankful to all participants and coaches, to the local organising committee and to UIPM for supporting this event with positive emotions.”

Elite athletes use Singapore as springboard for SEA Games

The 2019 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in the Philippines are approaching and athletes from five nations used Singapore’s third UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour on August 4 to sharpen their skills ahead of the continental multi-sport showpiece.

Hosted by the Singapore Modern Pentathlon Association (SIMPA), the GLRCT was held in conjunction with local governmental authority ActiveSG to celebrate Singapore’s 54th birthday and bicentennial year. Almost 150 athletes registered for the event after...
an intensive period of promotional activity. To cater for those new to the sport, laser shooting workshops were conducted weekly leading up to race day. Many grew more interested over the weeks and reached out to SIMPA for regular shooting practice even after the event.

There were nine age categories for men and women and an elite category, which attracted attendance from athletes from Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines and Thailand. It was the perfect chance for local and regional athletes to prepare for the SEA Games.

SIMPA also introduced a new race category called the ‘kaki run’—a mixed relay race where couples, parents and their children, siblings and friends could sign up to compete in the race as a team. This category aimed to build camaraderie within the UIPM Sports community, a theme in line with Singapore’s National Day celebrations.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “The event was very well received by the public and the enthusiastic supporters brought with them lots of positive vibes on the day. “Thanks to prior experience, SIMPA was able to hold the event smoothly, and we are determined to make it bigger and better every year.

“The plan for next year is to start publicity for the event as early as January 2020 so that all participants can be better prepared and a better show can be put on come July or August.”

Young athletes handle the heat in Banha (EGY)

It has been another busy year for UIPM Sports in Egypt and the city of Banha hosted its first competition as the Global Laser Run City Tour visited Egypt for the third time.

A total of 315 athletes competed in eight age categories from Under 9 to Senior, with a large quota of 72 participants at both Under 13 and Under 15 level.

Racing at Banha Stadium was held in the evening due to the intense morning heat in the city, which lies 50km to the north of the capital Cairo.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “The event was very well received by the public and the enthusiastic supporters brought with them lots of positive vibes on the day.

“The plan for next year is to start publicity for the event as early as January 2020 so that all participants can be better prepared and a better show can be put on come July or August.”

Young athletes handle the heat in Banha (EGY)

The Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation will continue a busy 2019 season by hosting a Biathle-Triathle National Tour in the resort of Hurghada on September 27 and another GLRCT two days later.

The Global Laser Run City Tour continues to satisfy the appetite for UIPM’s most popular development sport across the country, and the midsummer GLRCT racing in Abrantes and Alenquer enabled organisers to build on the progress of Portimao in May.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “We had two stages full of many emotions, great competitiveness and very fair play. The sun was shining, a lot of public were watching and we saw more than 200 athletes, from Under 9 to Masters C, demonstrating their athletic abilities.”

#PentathlonDay party in Vitebsk (BLR)

The 2nd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day was celebrated right across the UIPM Sports world, but perhaps nowhere with more vigour than in Vitebsk (BLR) on September 8.

The Belarusian Federation of Modern Pentathlon seized the moment by organizing a Global Laser Run City Tour in the heart of one of the country’s most beautiful cities – attracting an incredible 500 participants.

The Vitebsk GLRCT formed part of a sports festival in a square near the Summer Amphitheatre where the “Slavyanski Bazaar in Vitebsk” International Arts Festival is held each year.

Athletes came from sports and comprehensive schools, universities and regional enterprises, with 190 coming from the “Burevestnik-73” Vitebsk School of Sports and Athletics. There was an impressive age range of six to 77.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “Many veterans of physical education and sports took an active part in the Global Laser Run City Tour in Vitebsk. Their successes and love for a healthy lifestyle were noted during the awards ceremony.”
greatest number of medals was won by athletes from Vitebsk. Their success demonstrated that anyone, regardless of their initial shooting skills, can climb the podium in the Laser Run competition.

**Biathle-Triathle crossover achieved in Machico (POR)**

Not one but three UIPM Sports were contested by international athletes on the beautiful island of Madeira (POR) this summer.

Shortly after the 2019 European Biathle-Triathle Championships, the city of Machico hosted Portugal’s latest Global Laser Run City Tour, encouraging crossover between the three development sports and enabling athletes from visiting countries to enjoy a ‘bonus’ competition and stay on Madeira that little bit longer.

The combined approach made it a true festival of UIPM development sports, with 140 athletes from 12 countries taking part, and demonstrated the appeal of Laser Run to Biathle and Triathle athletes.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “On a very sunny day we received 140 athletes from 12 different countries at Machico, Madeira island of Portugal for the UIPM 2019 Global Laser Run City Tour.

“After a very sunny day we received 140 athletes from 12 different countries at Machico, Madeira island of Portugal for the UIPM 2019 Global Laser Run City Tour.

Great Britain’s athletes were particularly strong, but medals were also awarded to teams from countries such as Georgia, Germany, Italy, Estonia and Ukraine. Athletes took part in age categories from Under 90 to Masters 70+.

**Teens show how it’s done in Lome (TOG)**

As the Laser Run craze continues to spread across all continents, another African nation has embraced the urban sports phenomenon for the first time.

Togo held its first Global Laser Run City Tour in Lome on September 7, on the eve of the 2nd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day.

Heavy rain made life difficult both for organisers and participants, who came from clubs across the city to perform at the venue in the eastern suburb of Baguida.

The standard was particularly impressive in the Under 15 age group, where 13-year-olds Kodzo Gale and Ephoe Agbodji showed an excellent mastery of laser shooting.

The duo had already represented Togo at an international competition in Ouga (BUR) from August 15-18, as had Under 17 girls Aofe Semanou and Ruth Djago.

The event was organised by the Togolese Federation of Modern Pentathlon (FTPM), and a spokesperson said: “We are pleased with the successful organisation of this first UIPM Global Laser Run City Tour.

‘It has allowed us to gain tremendous lessons for future organisations, including the second Tour, scheduled for December 28, 2019.”

**Second time’s a charm in Novosibirsk (RUS)**

Laser Run may have established itself as one of the world’s most popular urban sports, but when the chance comes to align to other major sporting events, the benefits are obvious.

This was underlined when the Russian city of Novosibirsk hosted its second Global Laser Run City Tour on September 7, the eve of the 2nd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day.

Heavy rain made life difficult for organisations and participants, who came from clubs across the city to perform at the venue in the eastern suburb of Baguida.

The standard was particularly impressive in the Under 15 age group, where 13-year-olds Kodzo Gale and Ephoe Agbodji showed an excellent mastery of laser shooting.

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‘It has allowed us to gain tremendous lessons for future organisations, including the second Tour, scheduled for December 28, 2019.”

With the Siberian Running Festival
taking place in Novosibirsk at the same time, there were more than 12,000 spectators watching UIPM’s fastest-growing development sport in the city’s central square.

A total of 320 athletes, professional and amateurs, came from the Russian cities of Novosibirsk, Barnaul, Tomsk and Omsk as well as from neighbouring Kazakhstan.

Sergei Nelubov, Vice Governor of Novosibirsk region, was in attendance along with Sports Minister Sergei Akhapov, who said that Laser Run had become part and parcel of the Siberian Running Festival and had conquered the hearts of athletes and spectators.

The “Race of Generations” relay, which enabled youngsters and their parents to run and shoot together, became an interesting annex to the main competition - the youngest participant was only four years old.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “The seeds of the success of this competition were sewn in an advertising campaign that promoted the Global Laser Run City Tour widely beforehand, and the event was extensively covered in the media. “Thanks to the equipment support of the UIPM, the level of preparation of athletes has risen significantly, as much as the interest in this sport among youth has grown. The Laser Run format has gained recognition in Novosibirsk and it fosters the development of Modern Pentathlon in the region.”

Pentathlon links grow stronger in Lviv (UKR)

Nearly 300 athletes from seven regions flocked to Lviv in the west of Ukraine on September 15 to join one of the world’s fastest-growing urban sports movements.

On the same day the World Urban Games was taking place 600km away in Budapest (HUN), with Laser Run on the programme as a showcase sport, 289 competitors gathered with their coaches, parents, teammates and friends for Ukraine’s latest Global Laser Run City Tour. They competed in categories from Under 9 to Masters 40+ on a day of breathless activity at the SKA sports club.

The links between Modern Pentathlon and Laser Run are becoming stronger all the time, with the first combined UIPM World Championships also taking place during the same month.

Yuri Mershi, head coach to Ukraine’s national Modern Pentathlon team, underlined this when he addressed the audience at the opening ceremony.

He said: “Lviv has strong Pentathlon traditions and big potential, and Laser Run has become one of the most popular competitions in Ukraine.

“I would like to say thanks to UIPM for the great support of our sport. Because of UIPM, more and more athletes can join our sport through the Laser Run competitions format.”

The head of Lviv’s Regional Sport and Physical Culture Department, Himiak Roman, added: “This competition format is very modern, dynamic and fun which is very good for all ages, not only for children.”

The head of the Ukrainian Military Summer Sport Centres, Senik Ruslan, recalled that Lviv had produced many famous pentathletes such as Pavel Lednev and said he hoped the next generation of athletes would become legends of Modern Pentathlon as well.
Family is growing fast towards the target of 150 by the end of 2020 after seven new applications were approved by the IB today.

In Asia, the applications of provisional members Iraq and Timor Leste will go forward to be rubber-stamped by Congress, and the IB voted to approve five applications for provisional membership from African nations Chad, Eritrea, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan.

Apart from the award of the UIPM 2020 Congress, two competition awards were confirmed. The UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Championships will take place in Minsk (BLR) and the UIPM 2020 Junior World Championships will take place in Drzonkow (POL).

The Executive Board meeting took place on the eve of the finals of the first-ever combined UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

UIPM Executive Board approves New Tetrathlon format for Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games

The UIPM Executive Board (EB) has approved a New Tetrathlon concept proposed for introduction at the 2022 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar (SEN).

A comprehensive report on a series of New Tetrathlon test events was presented to the EB during a two-day meeting in Budapest (HUN), resulting in an unanimous vote of approval with one abstention.

New Tetrathlon incorporates Fencing into the existing UIPM Sport of Triathle, which combines Swimming with Laser Run. The new format was successfully tested in Buenos Aires (ARG), Cairo (EGY), Perpignan (FRA) and Weiden (GER) over the past five months.

The EB approved the concept and agreed to appoint a new working group, which will meet frequently over the next year to develop a framework and detailed rules.

The EB will reconvene in early 2020 in Lausanne (SUI) to review an update from the working group and recommend further steps towards the final proposal, which will be presented as a motion for approval at the UIPM 2020 Congress.

The previously annual gathering is now held every two years and the UIPM 2020 Congress was awarded to Xiamen (CHN) by the Executive Board during the second day of the meeting.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “We had two days of very strong conversation during this Executive Board meeting, with many important decisions discussed and decided. Now that we have Congress every two years, it’s especially important to use the EB meeting as a strong democratic forum for our sporting movement.”

“Wes discussed in detail the proposed future concept for the Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Summer Games, which will be the first Olympic Games to be held in Africa. The new format will now be finalised by a working group which will be assembled next week.

“We also discussed development progress in all continents and provisionally approved the membership of seven new countries to our UIPM Family. Our next meeting will take place in Lausanne in early 2020 and then there will be many motions to be voted on at the UIPM 2020 Congress in Xiamen.”

UIPM already has more than 120 national member federations and the new family is growing fast towards the target of 150 by the end of 2020 after seven new applications were approved by the IB today.

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countries can be sure they will have numerous opportunities to progress and gain certification as they hone their coaching techniques under the supervision of our UIPM Instructors.”

Kohlmann (GER) and Shugarov (RUS) stand out in Olympic ranking event in Drzonkow (POL)

With 38 Tokyo 2020 Olympic qualification places still up for grabs, a high-quality field assembled in Drzonkow (POL) for the International Polish Open from September 12-15.

In the women’s competition on September 14, Janine Kohlmann of Germany claimed gold and maximum Olympic ranking points with a convincing victory, winning by 29sec from silver medallist Alessandra Frezza of Italy. Local favourite Anna Maliszewska of Poland finished a further 4sec behind and picked up bronze having started the Laser Run in 8th place.

The men’s entry of 38 demanded a qualification round, and when the final came on September 15 it was similar to the women’s event as one athlete stood out.

Ilya Shugarov of Russia took a large lead into the Laser Run and eased to victory with an intense battle for the medals taking place behind him. To the delight of home supporters, Sebastian Stasiak (POL) won silver by 4sec from bronze medalist Ondrej Polivka of Czech Republic having started the Laser Run in 16th place, with Daniele Colasanti (ITA) and David Kindl (CZE) in close pursuit.

Janusz Peciak, UIPM Executive Board Member for Sport and Technical Committee Chair, said: “This was a very well organized competition. There were judges from Japan, Czech Republic, Italy, Russia and Poland and the most important thing was that athletes and coaches had great conditions in which to participate.

“We had athletes from 24 countries across all continents and many countries that have not been very active before in Pentathlon, like New Zealand, Belgium and Kyrgyzstan. Also Turkish athletes are getting better and better.”

Clouvel & Belaud (FRA) take top prize at 2019 Kremlin Cup

What do world champions do after becoming world champion? They immediately return to competition, aiming to extend that winning feeling.

The 2019 Kremlin Cup in Moscow (RUS) on September 22 attracted four athletes who had won gold medals at the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Championships in Budapest (HUN) only two weeks earlier.

Men’s world champion Valentin Belaud of France, who also competed in last week’s World Urban Games in Budapest (HUN), returned to the top of the podium after winning gold in the Mixed Relay alongside Elodie Clouvel (FRA).

Silver went to the experienced Lithuania duo of Laura Asadauskaite and Justinas Kindinio, while Germany joined them on the podium after Annika Schleu and Marvin Dogue secured bronze.

The new women’s world champion, first-time winner Volha Silkina of Belarus, had to settle for 5th place alongside Ilya Palazkov (BLR), while Mixed Relay world champion Salma Abdelmaksoud had a tough day for Egypt alongside Ahmed Elgindy, finishing 11th.

Many other stars of the 2019 season took part, including junior world champion Adelina Ibatullina and junior European champion Andrei Zuev of Russia, as 12 teams from 11 nations competed in the Mixed Relay format.

The ninth instalment of Russia’s annual one-day Pentathlon showpiece was covered by numerous TV channels, including Match TV, Russia 24, Russia Today and Moscow 24.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: ‘It was a real sporting celebration of the top athletes from 11 nations (Belarus, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Russia) followed by a farewell reception where the athletes were able to relax at the end of a long season.”

UIPM Vice President Aminov hails opening of Pentathlon coaching academy in Smolensk (RUS)

A spiring Modern Pentathlon coaches have a new opportunity to further their education after the opening of a Modern Pentathlon department at the Physical Culture Academy in Smolensk, Russia.

From September 1, students from all parts of the world have been given...
an opportunity to receive high-performance education on a daily basis at the Academy, which is fully equipped with a swimming pool, fencing hall, shooting range, track-and-field stadium and riding field equipped with obstacles.

The Academy is fully residential, allowing students to stay on campus all year round in line with their studies, and welcomes students from Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan interested in becoming Modern Pentathlon coaches at the highest level.

The new department is the result of three years’ hard work by Viacheslav Aminov, UIPM Vice President for Business Affairs and President of the Modern Pentathlon Federation of Russia, who said he “knew how important the educational platform is for Modern Pentathlon coaches”.

VP Aminov is also working on the establishment of the newly-constructed Severny Academy in Moscow (RUS), a high-tec and interactive Modern Pentathlon museum.

He said: “It will be interactive, highly aesthetic and interesting for athletes, young athletes and their parents. “We have collected a lot of materials from former athletes and we hope it will be a cultural legacy for many generations.”

Ozyuksel (TUR) wins top award for ‘contribution to Olympic values’

Ilke Ozyuksel of Turkey has been honoured with one of her country’s top athlete awards.

The regular UIPM Pentathlon World Cup medallist received the Mustafa V Koc Sports Award at a glittering ceremony in Istanbul (TUR) on September 24, at the end of another prolific season on the elite Pentathlon circuit.

After winning silver at UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Szekesfehervar, her fourth Pentathlon World Cup medal, Ozyuksel finished 10th at the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships in Budapest (HUN) and ended the season ranked 14th in the world rankings.

UIPM 2019 Biathle-Triathle National Tour: A big step forward in Piliyandala (SRI)

The Biathle-Triathle National Tour moved to Asia for the fourth round of the 2019 circuit – and Sri Lanka’s sporting community welcomed it with open arms.

Almost 200 athletes took part from U11 to senior, across Biathle, Triathle and even Laser Run at Central College in Piliyandala. Young people came from schools, clubs and villages from all around the country to take part.

Interest was evident with large numbers of people watching, and the success of the event was underpinned by the work of 15 volunteers from various universities and the private sector who took on the challenge of organisation.

Nishanthi Piyasena, President of the Modern Pentathlon Federation of Sri Lanka, said: “Our next focus is to cultivate Tetrahathlon among Sri Lankan athletes in order to participate in the Youth Olympics in 2022 and World University Championship in 2020 and uplift the Modern Pentathlon sport to the next level.

“We expect the Ministry of Sport, the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka and other well-wishers who love the multi-sport culture to assist preparing our athletes to participate in Asian Championships, World University Championships and qualification events for the next YOG in Dakar.”
Viacheslav Malishev, UIPM Executive Board Member for Development, said: “Biathle and Triathle are two of the pillars of UIPM’s global development programme, enabling athletes to transition between running, swimming and, in the case of Triathle, laser shooting and enhance their chance of becoming pentathletes.

“I am delighted that the UIPM Biathle-Triathle National Tour is up and running again and I congratulate everybody involved in this year’s event in Sri Lanka on an excellent competition that was clearly enjoyed by many people.”

Twelve countries taste gold at European Masters Championships in Gyomro (HUN)

Almost 70 athletes from 17 National Federations including Egypt gathered in Gyomro, Hungary, for the ECMP Masters Open European Championships. The 13th running of the continental championships took place from September 19–22 and included Men’s, Women’s and Mixed Relay events alongside the individual categories across Pentathlon and Tetrathlon.

The overall individual winners in the Pentathlon category were both from Great Britain, Sophie Saudo and Ed Norton, while there were gold medals for Russia and Hungary (men), and Latvia and Switzerland (women).

In the Tetrathlon categories the overall individual winners were Javier Alonso of Spain and Barbara Oettinger of Germany. Gold medals also went to Ukraine, Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia and Monaco.

The competition was organised by the Gyomro-based Pentathlon and Riding Club Trion SC and supported by the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association (HMPA) as well as international and local members of the Masters community.

UIPM Masters Committee Chair Peter Engerisser (GER) said: “It was a wonderful, amicable gathering and the whole event was professionally supported by a team of experienced judges and Pentathlon organizers. Many thanks to the competition director Gabor Molnar, technical director Tamas Varga, chief judges Tunde Szeles and Zsolt Farkas and the whole LOC.

“The horses were of the finest quality, as were the 40 stands at the laser shooting range and the Fencing venue was state of the art. My thanks therefore
Tournament & Training
Camp Invitations

This is an important notice for all Athletes and Competitions organisers to continuously check pentathlon.org for all information related to invitations and visa letters. Navigate to the National Federations Portal or to www.pentathlon.org to stay up to date with all tournament news.

Medical and Anti-Doping Corner

WADA publishes 2019 List of Prohibited Substances

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has published its 2019 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods, an important resource for anyone involved in the UIPM Sports and the wider international sporting movement.

The list, which came into force on January 1, 2019, is accompanied by the 2019 Summary of Major Modifications and Explanatory Notes - which serves to help athletes, coaches and other support personnel to understand the latest changes - and the 2019 Monitoring Program.

"WADA is pleased to announce the publication of the 2019 Prohibited List," said WADA Director General, Olivier Niggli. "It is one of the cornerstones of the global anti-doping program. Every year, we review the List in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. It is vital that we stay ahead of those that endeavour to cheat the system so in reviewing the List, experts review sources such as scientific and medical research, trends, and intelligence gathered from law enforcement and pharmaceutical companies."

For a substance or method to be added to the List, it must be determined that it meets two of the following three criteria:

1. it has the potential to enhance or enhances sport performance;
2. it represents an actual or potential health risk to the athletes;
3. it violates the spirit of sport.

Athletes who have a legitimate medical reason for using a prohibited substance or method that is on the List may be accommodated if they meet the criteria outlined in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE).

The 2019 Prohibited List, Summary of Modifications and Monitoring Program are available for download on WADA’s website in English, French and Spanish.
Inside UIPM: Monthly activities of President Dr Schormann

04.09.-09.09.2019, Budapest, HUN

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann fulfilled a wide variety of prestigious engagements during the first-ever combined UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.

The week began with a two-day UIPM Executive Board Meeting at the historic New York Palace Hotel (September 4-5), chaired by the UIPM President.

The Executive Board approved a new tetrathlon concept proposed for introduction at the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2022 and awarded a number of UIPM competitions and events. Xiamen (CHN) was chosen to host the UIPM 2020 Congress while the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Championships will take place in Minsk (Belarus) and the UIPM 2020 Junior World Championships will take place in Drzonkow (Poland).

UIPM’s family of member federations continued to grow after seven new nations – Iraq, Timor Leste, Chad, Eritrea, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan - had their applications approved.

On September 5, President Dr Schormann spoke at the official opening ceremony of the championships at Kincsem Park, along with Hungarian Sports Minister Dr Tünde Szabo and Dr Gyula Bretz, President of the Hungarian Modern Pentathlon Association.

On September 7, in the company of IOC and UIPM Vice-President Juan Antonio Samaranch meets the Hungarian President in the presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco.
HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco (UIPM Honorary President, IOC Member and Head of State) and the IOC and UIPM Vice President Juan Antonio Samaranch, President Dr Schormann had an audience with HEM János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary, in the Presidential Palace.

They discussed issues of sporting politics and International Federation activities in Hungary. President Áder underlined the strong wish of Budapest to present another Olympic bid for 2032.

During his stay in Budapest, the UIPM President also met with Sports Minister Dr Szabo to discuss future close cooperation linked to UIPM Pentathlon World Cup Budapest, which is set to become an annual event from 2020. They also looked ahead to the 100-year anniversary of Modern Pentathlon in Hungary in 2027.

Dr Schormann accompanied UIPM’s Honorary President in attendance at the UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships on September 7-8, and on the evening of September 7 His Serene Highness was personally inducted into the UIPM Hall of Fame at the UIPM 2019 Annual Awards Gala Dinner.

HSH Prince Albert had been inducted during the UIPM 2018 Congress in Limassol (CYP), but he accepted his UIPM Hall of Fame plaque in person in Budapest (HUN) and made a touching speech about his lifetime involvement in sport and his passion for Modern Pentathlon.

On September 8, the 2nd Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day was celebrated with a special ceremony at Kincsem Park.

The UIPM President addressed spectators with a short speech about the precious legacy of Coubertin, who founded Modern Pentathlon and introduced it to the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912.

A speech was also delivered by Alexandra de Navacelle Coubertin, a direct descendant of the founder of Modern Pentathlon who sits on the UIPM Pierre de Coubertin Commission and the International Olympic Committee’s Commission for Culture and Olympic Heritage.

In the presence of UIPM Honorary President Prince Albert II of Monaco, Pierre de Coubertin Medals were presented to Dr Gyula Bretz (HUN) and to the Rio 2016 Olympic champions, Chloe Esposito of Australia and Alexander Lesun (RUS).

On September 9, the UIPM Business Affairs Committee, chaired by Martin Dawe, and the Medical Committee, chaired by Dr Natalja Ofitserova, met in Budapest - and there was also a special gathering of the ad hoc commission ‘Future Presentation of Modern Pentathlon’, which the UIPM President chaired. A working group will continue to discuss this important subject early in 2020.
13.09.-15.09.2019, Budapest, HUN

IPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann visited the 1st World Urban Games, where Laser Run was on the programme as a showcase sport.

President Schormann had meetings during the competition with GAISF President Raffaele Chiulli, IOC Sport Director Kit McConnell and Yumilka Ruiz, Cuba’s two-time Olympic volleyball champion and a member of the IOC Sport and Active Society Commission and former member of the IOC Athletes Commission.

Other VIPs who observed the competition included Paris 2024 Olympic Games Sports Director Jean-Philippe Gatien and World Urban Games CEO Attila Miszer. Numerous high-profile UIPM pentathletes took part alongside Laser Run specialists.

16.09.2019, Frankfurt-am-Main, GER

In his capacity as an Executive Board Member of the German Olympic Academy, the UIPM President took part in discussions about a Youth Olympic Games camp in Lausanne (SUI), the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, seminars in the Olympic Academy in Olympia (GRE) and how to enlarge the annual Olympic Day through National Federation activities.

24.09.2019, Istanbul, TUR

The UIPM President was a guest at the 2019 Mustafa V. Koc Sports Award, where Turkey’s most prestigious award was presented to the pentathlete Ilke Ozyuksel (TUR).

The award was presented by Caroline N Koc, Member of the Board of Directors of Koc Holdings, Turkey’s largest industrial conglomerate.

President Dr. Schormann was invited on the stage along with two IOC dignitaries, Vice President Prof Dr. Ugur Erdener (President of the Turkish Olympic Committee) and Athletes Committee Chair Kirsty Coventry.

The UIPM President also contributed insights to the feature film about Turkey’s leading pentathlete that was played before she received her honour.

27.09-30.09.2019, Doha, QAT

IPM President Dr. Klaus Schormann visited the first IAAF World Athletics Championships to be held in Qatar.

He took the opportunity to brief IOC Members about actions of UIPM relating to the worldwide development of Modern Pentathlon and spoke about the future presentation of the sport at Youth Olympic Games 2022 Dakar and the Olympic Summer Games Paris 2024.

With international colleagues he also discussed general preparations for Tokyo 2020, focusing on preparations for hot and humid weather conditions.
New Balance World Rankings

The PWR is updated live on www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at September 30, 2019:

The full New Balance World Rankings are available at www.pentathlon.org

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GET NEWS EDITS / HIGHLIGHTS

Baron Pierre de Coubertin

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

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