Anastasiya Prokopenko (BLR) and Adam Marosi (HUN) on their way to winning individual gold medals at the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Championships.

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UIPM 2021 PENTATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Anastasiya Prokopenko (BLR) and Adam Marosi (HUN) on their way to winning individual gold medals at the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Championships.
The 72 athletes who will compete in Modern Pentathlon at the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games have been named by the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM).

The identity of the 36 female and 36 male qualifiers was revealed in a special digital TV broadcast on UIPM’s social media channels, kickstarting a five-week build-up to the Olympic Modern Pentathlon, which will provide one of the highlights of the Games from August 5-7.

After an epic qualification adventure on the road to Tokyo, eight countries from four continents will be represented by the maximum quota of four athletes – China, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Korea and Mexico, with 31 nations represented in all.

Only two medallists from the Rio 2016 Olympic Games – silver medallists Elodie Clouvel (FRA) and Pavlo Tymoshchenko of Ukraine – feature in the line-up, which also contains London 2012 gold medallist Laura Asadauskaite of Lithuania and bronze medallist Adam Marosi (HUN), as well as Beijing 2008 bronze medallist Anastasiya Prokopenko of Belarus.

Alongside those Olympic icons, another seven individual world champions will be aiming for glory in Tokyo – Volha Silkina (BLR), Gulnaz Gubaydullina (ROC), Sarolta Kovacs (HUN), two-time world champion Valentin Belaud (FRA), James Cooke (GBR), Jinhwa Jung (KOR) and Justinas Kinderis (LTU).

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “The Olympic Games is the pinnacle of our sport and my congratulations go to the 72 athletes who have qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics taking place in 2021.

“It has been a difficult period not only for the athletes but also their coaches, trainers and support teams, with such uncertainty linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to our strong partnerships with competition organisers in Egypt, Bulgaria and Hungary we have delivered a fair qualification pathway to the Olympics in a safe and secure environment.

“Now we can look forward to a very special Olympic Games, which will be a symbol of hope and regeneration for the whole world. The Modern Pentathlon is the embodiment of the Olympic values and we have 72 excellent athletes who I know will deliver an unforgettable competition for viewers in all countries watching and supporting them from home.”

As well as watching the Olympic Modern Pentathlon on TV networks in all countries, supporters can download the official Tokyo 2020 app and visit the Tokyo 2020 website for content and information about Modern Pentathlon.

Followers should also stay tuned to the UIPM website and follow UIPM on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, VK, Weibo and YouTube – hashtags #ModernPentathlon and #MPTokyo2020.
THE CHosen ONES
Congratulations to the 72 Olympians selected to represent their countries at Tokyo 2020

MODERN PENTATHLON - WOMEN

MARINA ARCO\[a\] [BEL]
LAURA ASADUAI\[a\] [LIT]
LESANA BATA\[a\] [AUS]
MARINA BERTI\[a\] [BRA]
IDEA GUARAR\[a\] [FRA]
LOUISE CLOU\[a\] [BEL]
NADIA COYLE [BEL]
MARCEL\[a\] C\[a\] [FRA]
AI\[a\] [UKR]
JANA F\[a\] [UKR]
K\[a\] [FRA]
KAT\[a\] [BRA]
KAT\[a\] [FRA]
G\[a\] [HUN]
MIC\[a\] [HUN]
AM\[a\] [FRA]
AM\[a\] [KOR]
FR\[a\] [HUN]
FR\[a\] [POL]
ER\[a\] [KOR]
In\[a\] [POL]
LA\[a\] [CUB]
JO\[a\] [GBR]
MA\[a\] [MEX]
MA\[a\] [FRA]
EL\[a\] [KOR]
LU\[a\] [GBR]
LUK\[a\] [GER]
AHM\[a\] [EGY]
AHM\[a\] [ESP]
ALE\[a\] [ESP]
PAV\[a\] [KAZ]
SHOH\[a\] [JPN]
WOON\[a\] [KOR]
ELE\[a\] [ITA]
HAD\[a\] [EGY]
LAU\[a\] [CUB]
JOA\[a\] [GBR]
MAO\[a\] [MEX]
MAR\[a\] [FRA]
JIN\[a\] [KOR]
ROB\[a\] [FRA]
JU\[a\] [CZE]
JIN\[a\] [CHN]
ALE\[a\] [ROC]
SHI\[a\] [CHN]
ADA\[a\] [HUN]
IVA\[a\] [BEL]
VALE\[a\] [FRA]
LU\[a\] [MEX]

MODERN PENTATHLON - MEN

VAL\[a\] [BLR]
EST\[a\] [CHL]
DIU\[a\] [MEX]
JO\[a\] [GBR]
JAI\[a\] [GBR]
LU\[a\] [CUB]
PAT\[a\] [GER]
AH\[a\] [EGY]
AM\[a\] [USA]
CH\[a\] [BEL]
NAN\[a\] [CHN]
AI\[a\] [HUN]
ALE\[a\] [KAZ]
SHO\[a\] [JPN]
WO\[a\] [KOR]
ELE\[a\] [TUR]
ELI\[a\] [KAZ]
AN\[a\] [POL]
SAM\[a\] [USA]
REN\ [JPN]
ALE\ [ROC]
SHI [CHN]
ADA [HUN]
IVA [BEL]
VALE [FRA]
LU [MEX]
Twelve months later than anticipated, the world’s most versatile athletes arrived at the final stop on the road to Tokyo as they assembled for the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships. The annual flagship competition of Modern Pentathlon and Laser Run had been on hold for almost two years, after failed attempts to stage the event in Xiamen (CHN), Cancun (MEX) and Minsk (BLR).

With the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games less than 50 days away, many of Modern Pentathlon’s most celebrated performers still had work to do to secure their place on the start line – with only one chance left to take control of their destiny.

Five athletes earned the right to become Olympic pentathletes in Tokyo (JPN) by securing automatic quota places, while 21 others ended the week with enough ranking points in the UIPM Olympic World Rankings to realise their dream.

But the gathering in Cairo (EGY) was about much more than elite competition. From Afghanistan to Argentina, Chile to China, Ecuador to Estonia and United States to Uzbekistan, nearly 200 pentathletes and almost 400 Laser Run specialists from more than 50 countries made the trip to Cairo.

They came to compete for glory and medals across individual and relay events, to fulfil their short-term and long-term sporting dreams and to demonstrate the resilience that brought them through a devastating global pandemic, with their commitment to UIPM Sports fully intact.

Women’s Relay: Belarus complete the full set of medals

They picked up where they left off, dominating the women’s categories in UIPM’s flagship competition. On the opening day of the first UIPM Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships in 21 months, all-conquering Belarus claimed gold in the Women’s Relay thanks to a dominant performance by Volha Silkina and Iryna Prasiantsova.

Silkina (BLR) was the reigning individual champion and she also won gold in the team event in 2019 in Budapest (HUN) along with Prasiantsova (BLR) and Antasasiya Prokopenko (BLR).

A strong demonstration of class by some of the world’s leading female pentathletes from 11 nations provided a dynamic start to seven days of action in Cairo (EGY).

Finishing 12sec behind the champions, Guiniz Guabaydullina and Uliana Batashova (RMPF) claimed silver while two starlets from Hungary (Sarolta Simon and Rita Erdos) advanced two places in the Laser Run to win bronze.

Having won gold alongside Mayr Oliver (MEX) in 2019, Mariana Arceo of Mexico had her eye on retaining the title but she and team-mate Tamara Vega could only manage 4th, one place ahead of Korea (Sehee Kim and Sunwoo Kim).

MEDALLISTS’ REACTION

Gold medalist Prasiantsova (BLR) said: “It’s amazing. Two years without a World Championships and now on the first day we are world champions, so it’s great for Belarus and it’s a good start. We are sure that we can achieve the same result [in the individual / team event] and get another gold medal.”

Silver medalist Guabaydullina (RMPF) added: “Of course we’re very tired because the weather was very hot. In Moscow we don’t have that temperature for training, and when we came here it was so hot and so hard.

“We’re very happy about the medal, and now we have an individual semi-final and final and we need to prepare for that. Of course we want to show that we can get the best results.”

Bronze medalist Simon (HUN) said: “We’re very happy because it was our goal to reach the top three but we didn’t really think about medals at the start of the race so we’re very happy. It’s very hot compared to Hungary, but we are trained to manage in different conditions and we figured it out.”

SWIMMING

Guabaydullina and Batashova (RMPF) set the pace in the pool with a fastest...
time of 2:03.77, ahead of Ukraine (Iryna Boicheniuk & Anastasiia Chyzhova) and Belarus (Prasiantsova/Silkina).

FENCING
The Fencing Ranking Round was dominated by two nations, with Korea (Kim/Kim) emerging on top with 29V/11D and another two points added in the Bonus Round giving them a clear overall lead.

Belarus (Prasiantsova/Silkina) also scored highly with 27V/13D, four more victories than next-best Gubaydullina and Batashova (RMPF).

RIDING
Drama visited the Riding arena as three of the first four pairs suffered elimination, including host nation Egypt (Mariam Amer and Salma Abdelmaksoud).

Clean rounds and perfect scores of 300 enabled Belarus (Prasiantsova/Silkina) and Hungary (Simon/Erdos) to advance their credentials, especially as Korea (Kim/Kim) were toppled from the peak of the leaderboard by the loss of 40 penalty points.

LASER RUN
The overall picture had changed significantly, with Belarus (Prasiantsova/Silkina) now starting Laser Run with a 19sec lead over Korea (Kim/Kim). The Laser Run proceeded with unusual serenity, with very little suspense once Hungary (Erdos/Simon) had confidently overcome a 16sec deficit to move past Ukraine (Boicheniuk/Chyzhova) and Korea (Kim/Kim) into the bronze medal position.

Athletes of the elite calibre of Silkina and Prasiantsova (BLR) and Gubaydullina and Batashova (RMPF) had no issues defending their places, with the latter duo achieving the best Laser Run time of 12:18.00.

Men’s Relay: Lifanov and Kuznetsov (RMPF) win gold

Alexander Lifanov and Maxim Kuznetsov (RMPF) prevailed in a tight Men’s Relay to win gold on the second day of the championships.

Lifanov & Kuznetsov (RMPF) eased to the finish line 5sec ahead of silver medallists Korea (Woongtae Jun & Jinhwa Jung), who emerged victorious from a close mini-battle with bronze medalists China (Linbin Zhang & Jiahao Han).

The contest for silver was the main point of intrigue, and the more experienced Korea duo (Jun/Jung) finally overpowered their rivals. But there was no danger of China (Zhang/Han) missing out on the chance to complete an Asian double on the medal podium, underlining their hunger for success with the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in neighbouring Japan just weeks away.

A day of high-quality combat across the five disciplines ended with 4th place for France (Christopher Patte & Ugo Fleuroit), one place ahead of Hungary (Balazs Szep and Gergely Regos).

MEDALLISTS’ REACTION
Gold medallist Lifanov (RMPF) said: “I’m very happy because it’s my first world title. It’s my first senior world medal and it’s gold.

“We wanted this medal very much because we have some problems in the men’s team in Russia and I think this medal will give some good emotions to our team.

“It was very hot weather and I was very tired running the second lap. It’s very good that the organisers decided to make the Laser Run at 7pm because I think at 5pm some sportspeople would die here!”

Silver medallist Jun (KOR) said: “My team-mate Jung is in great condition and we had a very good position – we’re so happy. We had a good race.

“We had a good plan and we were pleased to beat the China team.”

Bronze medallist Zhang (CHN) said: “We’re tired and a little bit sore. The temperature is very high and we lose
water from the body very fast. The most important thing is to enjoy the experience.”

SWIMMING
Korea duo Jun/Jung set the fastest time in the pool (1:50.82) but only after a tense battle with Belarus (Kirill Kasyanik & Yauheni Arol) and United States (Tyler Evans & Amro Elgeziry), both of whom went under 1:52.

FENCING
Lifanov & Kuznetsov (RMPF) emerged as top performers on the piste, scoring 20V/6D with China (Zhang/Han) two victories behind them.

There was also a notable performance from Mexico (Manuel Padilla & Dutillo Carrillo), who scored 17V/9D and added three points in the Bonus Round. There was something to cheer for the host nation as Egypt (Mohanad Shaban & Alyeldin Sewilam) scored four additional points after struggling in the Ranking Round.

RIDING
After three eliminations in the Women’s Relay 24 hours earlier, there were no such issues for the men as five of the 14 competing nations registered a maximum score of 300, with another four incurring only time penalties.

China (Zhang/Han) managed an almost perfect 299 to close the overall gap on Lifanov & Kuznetsov (RMPF), who like Korea (Jun/Jung) scored 293.

LASER RUN
With only a 2sec starting lead over China (Zhang/Han), it could have been a nervous experience for Lifanov & Kuznetsov (RMPF) but they never lost control of the race and all of the drama unfolded behind them.

Han (CHN) struggled at the second visit to the shooting range, enabling Jun (KOR) to make up ground and then overtake his rival on the second lap.

But that wasn’t the end of the story. At the fourth shoot there was another change as Jung (KOR) suffered an attack of nerves and gave Zhang (CHN) the chance to catch him and then move ahead.

However, 2017 individual world champion Lifanov (RMPF) reclaimed the lead and then crossed the line first.

Clockwise from top: action from the Riding in the Men’s Relay; Alexander Lifanov (RMPF) approaches the finish line; bronze medallists China ascend the podium and Korea celebrate their silver medal success.
**Women's Individual: Prokopenko (BLR) becomes double world champion**

Belarus equaled an all-time record by winning three consecutive women's world titles thanks to a remarkable victory by Anastasiya Prokopenko.

The 35-year-old Prokopenko (BLR) repeated her 2018 triumph by repeating her 2018 podium performance and offset by their pride in Michelle Gulyas (HUN), whose bronze medal secured a quota place for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Elodie Clouvel of France also had cause to celebrate, having battled her way to a silver medal that gives her an opportunity to be in Tokyo (JPN) and a chance to settle for 4th. Behind her was the 2017 world champion touching in 2:11.42. The Beijing silver medallist also won the final bout of the Bonus Round for two additional points.

Three fencers were tied on 22/13D – African champion Haydy Morsy (EGY) and team-mates Gulyas and Alekszejev (HUN), with Langrehr (GER) only one

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**FENCING**

The Fencing Ranking Round was held the previous evening and Prokopenko (BLR) made her mark, scoring 24/11D to put some daylight between herself and the chasing pack. The Beijing 2008 bronze medallist also won the final bout of the Bonus Round for two additional points.

Three fencers were tied on 22/13D – African champion Haydy Morsy (EGY) and team-mates Gulyas and Alekszejev (HUN), with Langrehr (GER) only one
victory further adrift after her world record exploits in the Bonus Round at the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup Final in Székesfehérvár (HUN).

RIDING
Only one athlete – Kohlmann (GER) – had an unblemished scorecard after 35 intriguing rounds on the sand in Cairo (EGY). But she was joined by seven others who only incurred time penalties.

One of them was Khokhlova (UKR), who moved into 3rd place overall, and overall leaders Gulyas (HUN) and Clouvel (FRA) each scored 286 to remain at the top end of the leaderboard. There was disappointment for London 2012 Olympic champion Laura Asadauskaité of Lithuania, whose score of 255 left the podium out of reach.

LASER RUN
Gulyas (HUN) protected her 6sec lead over Clouvel (FRA) with great composure for most of the race, but she could do nothing about the bolter who emerged from the pack. Showing extraordinary poise at the shooting range and appearing almost weightless on the hot sand, Prokopenko (BLR) moved serenely through the field and took the lead on the third lap – with no intention of giving it back.

Both Gulyas (HUN) and Clouvel (FRA) had endured some sticky moments on the range but just as they seemed to be flagging, the unexpected struggles of Schleu (GER) on the fourth shoot gave both a chance to reassert themselves.

Gulyas (HUN) left the range ahead of Clouvel (FRA) but the more experienced athlete had kept enough in reserve to consign the 21-year-old to bronze, albeit only by 2sec.

Men’s Individual: Marosi (HUN) rolls back the years

The maturity required to be a Modern Pentathlon champion was underlined for the second time in one

An aerial view of the Riding action during the Women’s Final in Cairo (EGY)

Anastasiya Prokopenko (BLR) savours her success as the 2021 women’s world champion and, below, is joined by her Belarus team on the podium

Elodie Clouvel (FRA) keeps her eye on the prize of automatic qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
weekend as Adam Marosi of Hungary reclaimed the individual world title.

A few weeks out from his 37th birthday, Marosi (HUN) proved again that there is a unique blend of physical and mental skills that separate good from great pentathletes, and age is certainly no barrier. He earned the crown 24 hours after another two-time winner, 35-year-old Anastasiya Prokopenko of Belarus, had regained the women’s title.

Twelve years have passed since Marosi (HUN) first became world champion in London (GBR) in 2009, and it was three years later that he stood on the podium in the same city with an Olympic bronze medal and Ilya Palazkov of Belarus can be confident of a high finish.

The team gold went to Hungary, with Marosi joined on the podium by Ahmed Elgendy (EGY) in 2:02.68. He won gold in the Men’s Relay alongside Maxim Kusnetsov earlier in the week. Behind them, the sand was flying as a host of athletes scrambled for that coveted bronze medal and the final opportunity to qualify automatically for Tokyo. An exceptional performance by Ahmed Elgendy of Egypt sent the home crowd into ecstasy and the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games champion a chance to complete his transition to senior on the biggest stage of all.

The irresistible kick of Elgendy (EGY) was hard on his team-mate, Ahmed Hamed (EGY), who crossed the line just 5sec later – he will now have to wait 15th to 3rd, it was a very hard race and a very hard track. I did it, and the most important thing is that I qualified for Tokyo and it’s an automatic place. My target was to qualify through the rankings, and I didn’t have a very good fence but I closed the gap in Swimming, a little bit more in Riding and then Laser Run - I did it!"

Elgendy (EGY) said: “Coming from 15th to 3rd, it was a very hard race and a very hard track. I did it, and the most important thing is that I qualified for Tokyo and it’s an automatic place. My target was to qualify through the rankings, and I didn’t have a very good fence but I closed the gap in Swimming, a little bit more in Riding and then Laser Run - I did it!”

I enjoyed that, but the Laser Run was so, so hard - the hardest Laser Run of my life. To be in first position is difficult, and the sand was very deep. Finally I did it and I’m so, so happy.

“I don’t know who is the oldest world champion but maybe it happened today, maybe it’s me. I can taste the feeling now, I can taste the moment.”

Lifanov (RUS) said: “Yesterday it started with a good fence and it continued today and I performed my average in Swimming and then had a good ride. In Laser Run I could see them coming behind me in third or fourth place and I was very worried I couldn’t save it, but I managed it.

“It’s my first senior World Championships medal and I didn’t have any medals in the World Cups. And then suddenly, silver. I’m very happy, I can’t explain it.”

While selectors in countries with multiple options mull over their choices, attention in other nations will turn to the final composition of the UIPM Olympic World Ranking List, where today’s 7th-placed athlete Ilya Palazkov of Belarus can be confident of a high finish.

The team went to Hungary, with Marosi joined on the podium by Bence Demeter (9th) and Richard Kinderis (LTU), who returned in the Bonus Round with four extra points to outshine Alexia Heredia Vives of Spain and Palazkov (BLR). The reigning world champion, Valentin Belaud of France, remained in contention with 21V/14D.

RIDING

If Fencing could not have gone much better for former champion Kinderis (LTU), Riding could not have gone much worse and he submitted the
second-worst score of the day after picking up 52 penalties.

At the other end of the happiness scale were the two leaders, Marosi (HUN) and Lifanov (RUS), each of whom scored a perfect 300 along with Marek Grycz of Czech Republic, Liebig (GER) and team-mates Brice Loubet and Pierre Dejardin (FRA), while Belaud (FRA) dropped only two points for time.

LASER RUN

If the 26sec gap between 2nd and 3rd made it a two-horse race for gold, the dash for bronze was never going to be straight-forward.

Palazkov (BLR) did his best to make it so, and the threat of Belaud (FRA) behind him never quite materialised, but Hamed (EGY) in 8th and Elgendy (EGY) in 15th never let him out of their sights.

With supporters urging them on from trackside, the local heroes ripped through the first two laps and moved into the podium equation on the third circuit, where Elgendy (EGY) romped past Palazkov (BLR) into a 3rd place that he was never going to relinquish with his effortless sharp shooting and youthful athleticism.

Ahead of him, Marosi (HUN) never had cause to look over his shoulder despite three consecutive 17sec shoots, but Lifanov (RUS) also maintained a good running pace to offset his inaccuracy at the range.

A worthy gold, silver and bronze medallist ascended the podium, looking into the night sky and towards the Far East with a surge of confidence to go with their hope.

Mixed Relay: Korea (Kim/Seo) end on a high with gold

Korea claimed the final gold medal of a dramatic UIPM Modern Pentathlon season as Sehee Kim and Changwan Seo surged to Mixed Relay gold at the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships.
Kim and Seo (KOR) were remarkably consistent throughout the afternoon and finished top of the podium ahead of Belarus, with Anastasiya Prokopenko completing a full set of medals alongside Ilya Palazkov. Prokopenko (BLR) had already won Women’s Individual gold and a Women’s Team bronze medal on Saturday.

The 2021 season has been uniquely challenging but, in spite of hurdles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been endlessly compelling and dramatic. There was time for a breathtaking finale as the race for bronze came down to mere millimetres. It was Germany who claimed the final spot on the podium with Patrick Dogue and Rebecca Langrehr finishing just ahead of the Ukraine duo of Iryna Khokhlova and Pavlo Tymoshchenko. A truly pulsating final Laser Run of the season saw Belarus (Prokopenko/Palazkov) climb from 6th to 2nd and Dogue (GER) desperately dive over the finish line to beat Tymoshchenko (UKR) to bronze. As for the new world champions, a gold medal was exactly the positive end to the season that Korea would have been seeking with the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in neighbouring Japan approaching.

**MEDALLISTS’ REACTION**

Seo (KOR) said: “The fencing put us in a good position. Communication was good. The Laser Run was amazing. This makes us so happy.”

Kim (KOR) added: “This is the last competition before the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games so today makes us very, very happy. The Korea team is doing very nicely.”

Prokopenko (BLR) said: “I am very happy. I won the (Women’s) Individual championship and now silver medal to go with (the Women’s) Team bronze medal. I have very big baggage to go back home with these medals!”

Palazkov (BLR) added: “I am so happy. I don’t know how many times I have started here and this is my second medal. A Mixed Relay in the World Championship, a silver medal – we are so happy.”

Dogue (GER) said: “The day started very well with a very good swim, a PB I would say, for the Mixed Relay. The Fencing was solid. In the Riding we were maybe a little unlucky because we had the horse I had yesterday, but Becky did a really good job with it.

“The Koreans were far away in front and we knew the Belarusians would come from behind but we defended the third place so everything was fine.”

**TOP TO BOTTOM:** Action from the Swimming pool; Patrick Dogue and Rebecca Langrehr (GER) share a laugh with Ilya Palazkov (BLR); Riding action

**SWIMMING**

Lithuania got off to a stellar start in the pool with Ieva Serapinaite and Dovidas Vaivada scorching the competition with a time of 1:55:59, well ahead of RMPF (Alexander Lifanov and Gulnaz Gubaydullina) in 1:58:44. Hungary (Blanka Guzí and Bence Kardos) were the only other team to break the two-minute mark at 1:59:17.

**FENCING**

Korea (Kim/Seo) took a hold of the competition as action moved to the piste, claiming 19V/9D in the Ranking Round and two further points in the Bonus Round. Italy were not far behind with Beatrice Mercuri and Valerio Grasselli racking up 18V/10D, while RMPF (Gubaydullina/Lifanov) remained in the mix for podium positions, placing third with 17V/11D.

**RIDING**

At the end of a challenging but rewarding season, there was a high level of consistency in the final Riding competition with four teams scoring the maximum 300 points. Germany (Langrehr/Dogue) moved into overall medal contention but Korea (Kim/Seo) also had an immaculate round, ensuring they would begin the Laser Run at the head of the pack. Belarus (Prokopenko/Palazkov) and Hungary (Guzí/Kardos) also enjoyed a perfect score to set up a dramatic conclusion.

**LASER RUN**

The leaders needed to hold their nerve in the Laser Run and sure enough, the chasing pack were on the tail of Kim (KOR) from the start. None more so than Prokopenko (BLR), who at 35 had become individual world champion for the second time two days earlier.

By the time of the handover, Prokopenko (BLR) had pushed past her rivals from Germany, Italy, Lithuania and Ukraine. But if Seo (KOR) was feeling the pressure with Palazkov (BLR) in hot pursuit, he didn’t show it. Dead-eyed at the shooting range, an opening 6sec shoot effectively sealed
gold. As the race reached its climax, it was clear – as so often – that the real fight was for bronze.

Rio 2016 Olympic silver medallist Tymoshchenko (UKR) looked to have the edge over Dogue (GER) but the latter refused to give up and stretched every sinew as he dived over the line to take bronze by the tiniest of margins.

Lithuania (Serapinaite/Vaivada) secured 5th, one place ahead of Italy (Mercuri/Grasselli).

UIPM 2021 Laser Run World Championships

The UIPM Laser Run World Championships, which was initiated in 2015 in Perpignan (FRA), was incorporated into the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships for the second time in Cairo (EGY) after the debut of the combined competition in Budapest (HUN) in 2019.

Egypt dominated the youth categories while two established pentathletes from the United States claimed the individual senior gold medals.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “The UIPM Laser Run World Championships saw female and male athletes competing in all different age categories as well as disability categories.

“The facility they have prepared here in Cairo as a permanent facility for the future gives all Laser Run athletes a great base for the competition.

“We had a big number, more than 600 athletes, competing in these championships and it was not easy to compete on this course – like a cross-country – and in the heat. In such conditions it’s really a special moment for everybody.

“After a long time training, with no competitions in 2020, this was their first time back at the World Championships and that means a lot. Their motivation has never been taken away and Laser Run, our urban sport, has a great future. We can see this in how the athletes in many nations are becoming stronger and stronger.”

Women’s Individual

Claire Green (USA) enjoyed a convincing victory in the senior women’s category with team-mate Phaelon French (USA) securing silver and Pinelopi Nika of Greece earning bronze.

Anna Jurt of Switzerland, who like Green (USA) had competed in the Modern Pentathlon individual qualification round two days earlier, became junior...
Para Laser Run competitors prepare to race in Cairo (EGY)

UIPM Para Laser Run competitors prepare to race in Cairo (EGY)

JUNE 2021

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “This is a proud day for our entire global Modern Pentathlon community. Many people have contributed to our application for a new Modern Pentathlon format at the Olympic Games starting in Paris in 2024, and now their hard work has been recognised.”

On behalf of the UIPM Executive Board I express my gratitude to the IOC Executive Board for approving our application and recognising our innovation and our determination to add value to the Olympic Games through this dynamic new format.

“We look forward to working with the IOC Sport Department, broadcasters OBS and the Paris 2024 Organising Committee to ensure our sport is presented in the best possible way in Versailles, Paris, in three years’ time.”

“A new era for our core Olympic sport will begin in the birthplace of our founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, in 2024!”

The changes to Modern Pentathlon are designed to transform the profile and popularity of a sport that has been a constant feature of the world’s biggest sporting event since it was introduced by Baron Pierre de Coubertin – founder of the Modern Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912.

The vision for 2024 is designed to make Modern Pentathlon shorter, faster, more connected and compact to ensure a compact and sustainable event that results in only 18 athletes taking part in each final.

The news confirms that viewers and spectators watching the Olympic Games’ most demanding sport in 2024 will see a compelling showpiece featuring all five disciplines in 90 minutes. The new format features an elimination system that ensures that 18 athletes are taking part in each final.

The athlete distribution ensures a compact and sustainable event that results in only 18 athletes taking part in each final. The new format features an elimination system that results in only 18 athletes taking part in each final. The new format features an elimination system that results in only 18 athletes taking part in each final.
UIPM 2021 competition updates

UIPM Executive Board has voted to reschedule the UIPM 2021 Youth World Championships (U19/U17).

The competition, which had been due to take place in Alexandria (EGY) in July, has been moved to September 13-19.

The rescheduling decision was taken on grounds of health and wellbeing with regard to the high number of minors from around the world who will participate in the competition.

UIPM 2021 Youth World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) rescheduled

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The rescheduling decision was taken on grounds of health and wellbeing with regard to the high number of minors from around the world who will participate in the competition.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Our priority is the health and safety of all people taking part in our competitions and we have a particular duty of care in protecting young people.

“On behalf of the UIPM Executive Board I want to send a message to the young athletes affected by the decision to reschedule the UIPM 2021 Youth World Championships. We know you are ready, we know you are excited, and we ask you to be patient for a little longer so we can provide safe conditions for you to return to international competition along with your coaches and families.

‘Keep training, keep taking part in any local and regional competitions that your federation is able to arrange, and never give up on your sporting dreams.

I would like to thank the Egyptian Modern Pentathlon Federation (EMPF) for their constant cooperation and also to express my gratitude to our friends at Arab Academy for Science Technology & Maritime Transport, who will host the competitions in both July and September, for their flexibility and understanding.”

Sharif Elerian, EMPF President, added: “As the host nation for several major UIPM competitions this year, Egypt is looking at the safety and good health of all worldwide athletes, coaches and other participants as its main target.

“Meanwhile, we all want to make sure that everyone has the chance to play and compete in the UIPM Youth World Championships (U19/U17). I think this second postponement will provide enough time for all the young athletes who are the future of our sport to prepare and participate.

“I thank UIPM, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, the Egyptian Olympic Committee and Egyptian Ministry of Sport, for their understanding and cooperation in this matter and their full support for the new timing in September. We hope it will be a great competition and experience for all.”

The UIPM Youth World Championships (U17/U19) was last held in Sofia (BUL) in July 2019.

In July 2020, UIPM agreed to cancel the UIPM 2020 Youth World Championships (U19/U17), which had been scheduled to take place in Hurghada (EGY) in October 2020.

UIPM 2021 Youth World Championships in Alexandria (EGY) from July 12-18.

Like all UIPM competitions held so far in 2021, the UIPM Youth World Championships (which combines Under 19 and Under 17 age categories) will be run according to a set of COVID-19 Coronavirus protocols designed to prioritise the health and safety of all participants – athletes, coaches, technical officials and organisers.

UIPM 2021 Junior World Championships, which attracts mostly adult participants aged 21 and under, will go ahead in Alexandria (EGY) from July 12-18.

The protocols were applied effectively during the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup season, with all positive tests and close contacts quickly identified and measures taken to prevent the spread of infection.

Following concerns raised by several nations that would ordinarily send teams to the Youth World Championships, the Executive Board (EB), with guidance from the UIPM Medical Committee, took the view that the Union had a duty of care to protect minors from situations that could have a negative impact on their health and wellbeing.

One such situation is quarantine, which may be applicable in accordance with Egyptian law in some instances where athletes test positive for COVID-19 or are identified as a close contact.

The peak summer temperatures of up to 40C in Egypt in July were another factor taken into account by the EB.

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UIPM 2021 Global Laser Run City Tour

UIPM 2021 Global Laser Run City Tour: Portugal, Italy and Venezuela join the party

The revival of the Global Laser Run City Tour, UIPM’s most dynamic development mechanism, continued in June 2021 with events taking place in four countries.

Russia continued to build on the progress made across Eastern Europe in May, after a long shutdown due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, with two competitions. Portugal, Italy and Venezuela also joined the party.

The continuing restart of the Laser Run scene coincided with the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships, which brought the two sports together for the second time in Cairo (EGY) in June.

Something for everybody in Chelyabinsk (RUS)

One of the challenges facing Global Laser Run City Tour organisers is to create opportunities for urban communities to participate in an attractive venue that minimises disruption to the city.

The city of Chelyabinsk in Russia seems to have mastered the formula having held its third GLRCT in the beautiful Rifey part next to the forest – a popular beauty spot. Among the 210 participants on June 6 were athletes, schoolchildren and students, residents of the city and the region.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “Many families came to the competition and there was something for everyone. On the main stage, wonderful creative teams performed, while athletes demonstrated the beauty of fencing.

“The most popular feature was the laser shooting range, where boys and girls could try to shoot a pistol like real athletes. On the fencing piste everyone tried to use an epee, and in a historical corner everyone could become acquainted with the milestones of the development of Modern Pentathlon in the Chelyabinsk region, coaches and champions defending the honour of the region at Russian and international levels.”

Intense emotions in Coimbra (POR)

On the banks of the river Mondego in the city of Coimbra, the Portuguese Laser Run community reconvened to celebrate their passion for the sport. The event on June 12 was a full day of competition, entertainment and fun drawn including athletes and amateurs from the city and region, representatives of sports schools and general lovers of sport and a healthy lifestyle.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “From the beginning of the first races until late in the evening, the event generated the atmosphere of a sports festival, with musical accompaniment and tremendous support from the audience.

“The races of young athletes born in 2009-2010 aroused particular interest, and the whole day was charged with vibes of athletic spirit. All participants were awarded with diplomas, badges and keychains with competitions logo and the winners won medals, certificates and valuable commemorative prizes.”

Lovers of sport and healthy lifestyle drawn to Smolensk (RUS)

Six days later on June 12, another Russian city used a parkland venue to give people of all ages a chance to sample the joy of Laser Run. In Readovsky Park, Smolensk, 102 entrants were
Youth athletes from one of the youngest age categories pose with their certificates after the GLRCT in Miranda (VEN) for a highly inclusive GLRCT on June 26.

The Miranda Park event drew a diverse set of participants after organisers decided to encourage, motivate and incentivise boys and girls aged 11 to 16, while also enabling the participation of children with special needs so they could feel part of the activity.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said: “It really was a day full of emotions and the athletes were awarded with a certificate and a souvenir gift with Laser Run and Federation logos. We would like to thank the President of UIPM for allowing us in 2021 to develop such a valuable and important event, which allows the growth and catchment of future athletes in our country.”

Participants show off their medals in Modena (ITA)

UIPM Athletes Committee and Coaches Committee representatives revealed

Six coaches and seven athletes from across six continents have been elected by their peers to represent them on the UIPM Coaches Committee and UIPM Athletes Committee.

Elections to both committees took place in Cairo (EGY) during the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships and the successful candidates will serve from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024.

All six UIPM continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, NORCECA, Oceania and South America) are represented on each committee, with Natalya Coyle (Ireland) taking the additional world spot on the Athletes Committee. The new committees are as follows:

UIPM Athletes Committee
Africa – Yasser Hefny (Egypt)
Asia – Sheng Hung Liu (Chinese Taipei)
Europe – James Cooke (Great Britain)
NORCECA – Sophia Hernandez (Guatemala)
Oceania – Rebecca Jamieson (New Zealand)*
South America – Pamela Zapata (Argentina)
World – Natalya Coyle (Ireland)

UIPM Coaches Committee
Africa – Rasoul Mahrous (Egypt)
Asia – Zhongrong Cao (China)
Europe – Christian Roudaut (France)
NORCECA – Genadijus Sokolovas (USA)
Oceania – Dean Gileson (Australia)*
South America – Guillermo Filipi (Argentina)

* Oceania representatives were elected by continental peers outwith main election

The current UIPM Coaches Committee Chair, Christian Roudaut (FRA), retains his place but UIPM Athletes Committee Chair Aya Medany OLY, who recently took up a role as a Member of the Egyptian Parliament, did not stand for re-election.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “Congratulations to all elected athletes and coaches.

‘I’m sure the newcomers will provide fresh input and represent our worldwide communities of athletes and coaches in a fair and open way, in strong solidarity for the benefit of Modern Pentathlon and our sport for all movement.

‘All members of the UIPM Athletes...
Committee and UIPM Coaches Committee can be assured of my full support.”

UIPM Secretary General Shiny Fang said: “We have five new Athletes Committee members out of seven and four new Coaching Committee members out of six. We fully believe these two committees will make the difference with their input and efforts together with all other UIPM stakeholders.

“The opportunity and power are in their hands, and we are confident their work will be very valuable.”

Aya Medany OLY, who is also a Member of the International Olympic Committee Athletes Commission, said: “I would like to congratulate the new members of the UIPM Athletes Committee on their election and wish them all the best – and I will be available if they need any support or help to maintain the continuity of this important forum.”

Apply now for your scholarship to study at World Academy of Sports

For the second year in succession, pentathletes from all member federations of UIPM have been invited to apply for scholarships with the World Academy of Sports (WAoS).

The Online Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), delivered by the University of London (GBR), can be completed at the student’s own pace in up to five years.

One full scholarship worth £3,675 (£4,280) is available, with another 10 athletes set to benefit from a 25% subsidy worth £918.75 (£1,070) through a memorandum of understanding between WAoS and UIPM.

National Federations have been advised that athletes who wish to apply to the PGCert must have an existing undergraduate degree or at least five years relevant work experience and professional references. They must also have an English language level of 6.5, with 6.0 in the written test, in the IELTS system or an equivalent proficiency certification.

Those wishing to enrol for the PGCert must apply to UIPM by July 28, 2021 and the opportunity applies to the September 2021 intake.

Two undergraduates who secured the 2021 scholarships and are currently studying alongside more than 100 students from 50 countries and 19 sports, Georgia Hannam of Great Britain and Dennis Sminov of Latvia, recommended that fellow athletes take up the opportunity.

Hannam (GBR) said: “So far in my studies I have learnt a great deal on what it takes to ensure the operations of a sports organisation run efficiently.

“Learning about the barriers and possible opportunities that can be created just makes me want to get involved and help more people get active and involved in sport.

“It is definitely an opportunity I wouldn’t miss. It has been an amazing journey learning the behind-the-scenes planning that takes place in sports organisations and provides opportunities to open new career paths for the future.”

Sminov (LAT) added: “Studying in the University of London opens wide range of opportunities in the future life. The studies are full of interesting information and you can do it at any convenient time in a comfort of your own home.”

In due course UIPM will share information about the Online Athlete Certificate, which is available to a greater number of students.

The provision of educational scholarships is part of UIPM’s commitment to the athletes through the Athletes Centered Programme (ACP). WAoS offers a fully online educational pathway from high school to Postgraduate education.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: “On behalf of the UIPM Executive Board I am delighted that we are once again in a position to offer educational opportunities to athletes linked to the MUO between UIPM and WAoS.

“Our sport is closely linked to the academic world and focused strongly on education. Many pentathletes have achieved high success in their careers based on qualifications obtained alongside their sporting commitments and their intellectual capacity.

“I strongly encourage all eligible athletes to apply for this wonderful opportunity.”

All applications to the WAoS scholarship scheme must be submitted by a UIPM National Federation (NF).

Interested NFs which should send a note of interest to projects@pentathlon.org.

The UIPM Masters community will reconvene in 2022

The UIPM Masters community will reconvene in 2022.

UIPM Masters Committee elections postponed to 2022

The UIPM Executive Board (EB) has agreed to postpone the UIPM Masters Committee elections to 2022 so that the process can take place during the next UIPM Masters World Championships.

In 2020, after the postponement and cancellation of almost all UIPM activities, the EB decided to extend the term of all elected bodies so that elections could take place during competitions in 2021 or the UIPM 2021 Congress, scheduled for November.

It was agreed that the Masters Committee could be elected electronically in 2021, in the absence of a global competition or gathering this year, but the EB has decided by force majeure to cancel that process based on feedback from the Masters community.

The election will now take place during the UIPM 2022 Masters World Championships, reverting to the original sequence of Olympic year and even-numbered years thereafter.
My tribute to our unsung heroes

The Olympic Games are now firmly in our thoughts but I want to pay tribute to all the UIPM delegates and officials, local organisers and the UIPM staff team who made it possible for our wonderful athletes to fulfil their dreams of competing in Tokyo.

Trust me, it is no small achievement to have staged five Olympic qualification competitions in 2021 and, not only that, to have staged successful events!

We still remember all of those event cancellations in 2020 on a weekly basis because of the pandemic, and the discussions we had about updating the Olympic qualification system feels just like it was yesterday, although it was in January 2021.

Despite tons of uncertainties, contingency plans, COVID-19 infection control measures and implementations, we always had faith that the Olympic qualification events had to happen, and we had to provide the pathway to Tokyo for our athletes.

The first UIPM 2021 Pentathlon World Cup was completed, the second and third World Cups were completed, the new format test event was completed, the World Cup Final was completed, and then the last qualification event — the UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships — was finally completed with big success...

But what is behind all these successes?

• Guts, courage, passion and the incredible responsibilities borne by our organizers;
• The love, faith, duty, reliability and patience of our UIPM delegates and technical officials;
• The unbeatable backbone, ability and tireless work of the UIPM staff team.

We are very fortunate that all the implementations and arrangements benefited from the unconditional trust and belief of the UIPM Executive Board and all relevant leaderships, including our National Federations.

This is a community of people who back each other, and support each other — I am proud to be part of it!

After all the accomplishments of the Olympic qualification events, this community will certainly expect great success in Tokyo at the Olympic Games, while aiming higher for the future with new challenges.

Hand in hand, we achieve more — watch us!
Committee (EOC). Minister Sobhy, who is very supportive of the development of the UIPM Sports movement in Egypt and across Africa, joined Dr Schormann, Mr Banka and Mr Elerian in an inspection of the competition venue where they enjoyed a small shooting competition.

The UIPM President also visited the new facilities of the EOC where the UIPM World Championship Swimming and Fencing Ranking Rounds would be held – the latter venue was also used for the IHF World Men’s Handball Championships in January 2021.

On June 8 Dr. Schormann attended the General Assembly of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) where Lord Sebastian Coe (World Athletics President), Prof Dr Ugur Erdener (World Archery President) and Nenad Lalovic (United World Wrestling President) were re-elected as ASOIF Council Members.

On June 10 Dr Schormann had a meeting with EMPF President Elerian to discuss future competitions in Egypt.
meeting with UIPM staff, EMPF President Sharif Elerian and his team to debrief on the first two competition days and to brief them on the following days of the Women’s and Men’s Finals and Mixed Relay.

Later at the competition venue, President Schormann met with Mr. Elerian to discuss the upcoming UIPM...

UIPM Pentathlon World Championship Finals
The UIPM President presented the gold medals as per custom to the 2021 individual world champions – Anastasiya Prokopenko (BLR) and Adam Marosi (HUN) – as well as Mixed Relay world champions Korea (Sehee Kim & Seo Changwan).

He also presented medals to the victorious Men’s and Women’s Teams and the champion coaches who were given special awards. During the Men’s Final Dr Schormann had the opportunity to meet the Cairo-based IHF President, Dr Hassan Moustafa.

UIPM Laser Run World Championships
Laser Run was combined with Modern Pentathlon in the UIPM Laser Run World Championships in Cairo (EGY) and demonstrated the passion and determination of all participants.

Dr Schormann and Executive Assistant Lena Nussbaumer with IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa

The view from the VIP seats in the competition venue in Cairo (EGY)
Pentathlon for the second time in Cairo (EGY) after the successful first dual UIPM World Championships in Budapest (HUN) in 2019, with hundreds of athletes participating across all age groups from Youth to Masters. The EMPF has been instrumental in the development of UIPM Para Sports and the final day of the Laser Run competition included a Para Laser Run event attended by dozens of disabled athletes. President Dr Schormann presented medals to participants in all categories, including the women’s senior Laser Run medalists Claire Green (USA, gold), Phaelon French (USA, silver) and Pinelopi Nika (GRE, bronze). Afghanistan enjoyed medal success at the championships.
and Dr Schormann joined the Modern Pentathlon Federation of Afghanistan President, Khoshal Sarwari, to receive a framed portrait of the two Presidents.

**World Olympians presentation**
Accompanying Joel Bouzou OLY, Vice President of UIPM and President of the World Olympians Association, on a special visit to EOC Headquarters, President Dr Schormann and EMPF President Elerian joined in the presentation of OLY certificates to various Egyptian athletes including Aya Medany OLY, outgoing Chair of the UIPM Athletes Committee.

EMPF President Elerian also presented a special trophy to Bakhromjon Gaziev (left), President of the Uzbekistan Modern Pentathlon Federation who also became President recently of the Equestrian Federation of Uzbekistan, based on a memorandum of understanding.

17.06.-19.06.2021: Athens, GRE

The UIPM President visited the new President of the Hellenic Modern Pentathlon Federation, Theodora Palli, for a broad discussion on sporting politics relating to the future of the UIPM Sports movement in Greece.

He presented President Palli with a bronze Pierre de Coubertin oak tree statuette and met the Executive Board of the HMPF as well as Fani Palli-Petralia, Greece’s former Minister of Employment and Protection and Minister of Tourism.

During his trip to Athens, Dr Schormann also had the opportunity to meet IOC Member Spyros Capralos, the newly-elected President of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) and President of the Greek Olympic Committee. They shared some thoughts regarding sport in Europe and the International Olympic Academy in Olympia (GRE), as well as the European Games 2023.

Dr Schormann meets the Executive Board of the Hellenic Modern Pentathlon Federation

Dr Schormann with Theodora Palli, Hellenic Modern Pentathlon Federation President (left) and former Government Minister Fani Palli-Petralia in Athens (GRE)
on the activities undertaken by UIPM during the COVID-19 pandemic and future steps of the UIPM development strategy. He thanked both of them for their ongoing support and close personal friendship.

Together they all looked forward to a safe and successful Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 in 2021.

22.06.2021: Darmstadt, GER
UIPM President Dr Schormann met with Dr Wolfgang Dietz (CEO, Dietz AG-Bensheim) and Dr Armin Kohler (CEO, Rechner Industrie Elektronik GmbH – Lampertheim) to discuss their partnership, which started in 2018, in the coming years.

The two CEOs underlined their strong support for Modern Pentathlon and the other sports in the UIPM movement.

28.06.2021: Virtual Meeting with Paris 2024
After the IOC Executive Board approved the new Modern Pentathlon format for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, another meeting involving UIPM, Paris 2024 and the IOC Sports Department took place to discuss and confirm competition details.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann, Vice President Joel Bouzou OLY, Secretary General Shiny Fang, Operations Director Alexandre Franca and Competitions Manager Tamas Varga were joined by IOC Sports Manager Achilleas Tsogas and Jean Philipe Gatien (Sports Director), Aurelie Merle (Sports Associated Director) and Anne Murac (Sport Cluster Manager) from Paris 2024.

The meeting (pictured right) included discussions on the number of competition days, the Fencing Ranking Round venue and the assembly of the Pentathlon Stadium at Versailles that will stage the Modern Pentathlon competition with the new elimination format and the faster, more dynamic competition sequence.

Pentathlon World Rankings
- Updated after UIPM 2021 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships

The PWR is updated live at www.pentathlon.org after each competition. PWR as at 1 July 2021:

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The latest UIPM World Rankings, World Cup Rankings and Olympic Games Rankings are all available at www.pentathlon.org

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UIPM President Dr Schormann with CEO partners Dr Armin Kohler (Rechner Industrie Elektronik GmbH – Lampertheim) and Dr Wolfgang Dietz (Dietz AG-Bensheim)
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.”