



UIPM

Union Internationale
de Pentathlon Moderne



INTERNATIONAL
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COMMITTEE

IF Sustainability Case Study

FROM LEAD TO LASER SHOOTING



IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020 (“Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement’s daily operations”), the IOC

conducted the International Federations (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016. This allowed the IOC to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives; identify

common topics, good practices and mutual challenges; and share information. One of the Project’s outcomes was a series of case studies, illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting, it was agreed that the identification and

sharing of IF sustainability case studies should be continued. These case studies form part of the enhanced support system provided to the Olympic Movement through the [IOC Sustainability Strategy](#).

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. The studies are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’

(UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement since in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that

sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The UN’s 17 SDGs provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. The IF case studies attest to the fact that the Olympic Movement contributes to the achievement of many of these.



“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Each IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

IOC FOCUS AREAS



INFRASTRUCTURE
& NATURAL SITES



SOURCING & RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

UN SDGs



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THE UIPM SEES ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS AFTER TRANSITIONING FROM PISTOLS WITH LEAD PELLETS TO LASER

Environmental pollution by lead is a global issue. No known level of lead exposure is considered safe, and the toxin is one of the most deadly on the planet. Its common use has resulted in extensive environmental contamination and widespread public health problems, harming young children in particular.

Before 2011, Modern Pentathlon athletes used approximately 25 tonnes of lead pellets per year globally, some of which inevitably ended up in the environment.

The International Union of Modern Pentathlon (UIPM) took this into consideration and, wanting also to improve safety and inclusivity for its athletes, changed from lead to laser pistols in 2011.

Laser equipment is safer to use, has minimal security restrictions and is available to children, allowing UIPM events to target new audiences and be conducted in different locations, such as city centres, public parks, clubs and schools. Many countries have restrictions for minors when it comes to

shooting and possession of sport pistols, but this is not the case for laser equipment.

Since the introduction of laser pistols, the number of athletes has doubled and the UIPM has introduced new disciplines, enabling the engagement of youth, and inspiring future athletes. A new event, Laser-Run City Tour, reached almost 60 cities and 15,000 participants of all ages in 2017.

IMPLEMENTATION

Despite the positive overall impact on the sport and environment, the change from lead to laser has not been without its challenges. The UIPM engaged with experts to develop the homologation standards and technology that would allow the compatibility of the laser pistols and targets. To facilitate this change and assure the implementation of the new equipment and technology was done correctly, the UIPM invested significantly in expertise and equipment, holding workshops and providing online learning tutorials for athletes,



“LASER SHOOTING GIVES THE UIPM AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD WORLDWIDE ITS SHOOTING DISCIPLINE AND THE LASER-RUN EVENT WITHOUT ANY POTENTIAL RISKS CAUSED BY LEAD PELLETS”

SHINY FANG,
UIPM SECRETARY GENERAL

OBJECTIVES

By switching from lead to laser pistols, the UIPM aimed to:

- Allow Modern Pentathlon to be more inclusive and accessible to all age groups and countries.
- Decrease environmental lead pollution.
- Show leadership by implementing innovative equipment.

coaches, referees and event organisers. The International Federation (IF) also incentivised National Federations across the globe to introduce the new equipment and host competitions, by providing them with laser pistols and targets. Laser Shooting for Modern Pentathlon was originally piloted in the first Youth Olympic Games Singapore 2010 and subsequently used at all major UIPM events, as well as the Olympic Games London 2012.

EVALUATION

The introduction of laser shooting has had a significant positive impact on the sport, which has become more accessible and attracted new athletes, organisers and providers. This change has also improved safety for its athletes and spectators, while resulting in clear environmental benefits thanks to the elimination of lead in Modern Pentathlon events.



LESSONS LEARNED

- It is important to allow for sufficient time, resources and communication before implementing major changes in equipment.
- Establishing a process to ensure athletes, coaches, equipment providers and event officials are involved in the testing and homologation process will facilitate a smoother transition.
- The change can be a catalyst for further sustainability initiatives within the IF.

“THIS TECHNOLOGY IS ALLOWING THE UIPM TO SAVE COSTS WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDING SAFE SHOOTING. IT ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY FACILITATES EVENT ORGANISATION AND TRAVEL WITH EQUIPMENT.”

**DR.H.C. KLAUS SCHORMANN,
UIPM PRESIDENT**

