Dear Member Federations, Coaches, Athletes and Technical Officials

You can find in this second edition of the Technical Newsletter 2023 a clarification of the UIPM Competition Rules and Regulations; adjustments and explanations about specific topics of the UIPM Obstacle Competition Guidelines; reminders about key procedures to be followed when organising competitions that have the new discipline in their programmes; and the Authorised Identifications Guidelines for Paris 2024.
Modem Pentathlon Competition Rules and Regulations

Article 2.8.7 - Use of Unauthorised Whip and Spurs

The above-mentioned article reads:

“(…) The whip can be carried and used according to the recommendations on the horses’ characteristics list distributed to the Delegations before the riding event. ”

Clarification: Even if the recommendation on the horses’ characteristics list is „no” for using the whip, the athlete can decide to carry and use the whip during the warm-up and completion of the course.

UIPM Obstacle Competition Guidelines

The content of the following topics will be added to the next edition of the UIPM Obstacle Competition Guidelines. This Technical Newsletter serves as the reference for competition preparations and conduction.

1) Articles 3.1 - Starting Order

The above-mentioned article reads:

“i) in competitions with Qualifications, the athletes/teams will be placed according to their PWR Obstacle time. If the athlete/team does not have a PWR, entry times will be used. The athlete with the slower PWR Obstacle time or slower entry time will be placed in lane 1.”

... 

iii) in Finals, two athletes/teams will compete in two lanes (head-to-head). The athlete/team lowest ranked after fencing will be placed in lane 1.

Clarifications:

i) In qualifications, the starting order will be based on the PWR Obstacle time or entry time. Athletes with slower PWR Obstacle time or entry time compete first.

ii) In case of the same entry time, the athlete with the lowest PWR competes first. In case those athletes have no PWR, the athlete from the NOC Code alphabetical order will be followed.

iii) In case of an odd number of athletes in the group, the athlete in the first heat will compete alone.

iiii) “After fencing” refers to “after Fencing Bonus Round”.


2) **Measuring the height of the obstacle hanging elements**

For the obstacles listed below, the height of the hanging elements must be measured from the bottom of the vertical trusses to the lowest part of the element (e.g., rings = 240 cm). It is important to point out that the mattresses should not be taken into account for this measurement and that they will be level with the platforms at a height of 20 cm.

- Big Wheel
- Rings
- Wheels
- Monkey bars
- Swinging globes
- Tilting ladders

3) **Warm-up time in Qualifications**

i) The warm-up time for qualifications will be at least 20 minutes.

ii) In the Semi-finals and Finals, there will be 60 minutes of general warm-up time for all disciplines before the competition starts.

iii) The LOC will announce all warm-up details at the Technical Meeting.
4) Relay competitions

i) Obstacle Discipline Relay competitions are organised as head-to-head races between two teams.

ii) Each pentathlete in the team must complete the whole course.

iii) The start order of the athletes on each team must be declared in writing by the team representative before the TM and once approved by the UIPM TD, cannot be changed. For the Mixed Relay, Women compete first, then Men.

iv) The competition start order is the reverse of the ranking after the Fencing Bonus Round. The team lowest ranked after the Fencing Bonus Round will be placed in lane 1.

v) As soon as athlete #1 in the team completes the course by activating the finish button, athlete #2 will start the course.

vi) In UIPM Category A competitions, one repetition light for each lane should be synchronised with the finish button and placed in a visible position close to the starting line (see the example below). The repetition light must give athlete #2 in the relay a clear view that athlete #1 finished their course while judges can better check cases of a false start.

![Diagram showing repetition light and start line for relay course]
vii) Obstacle Discipline Points Table (Relays).

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S) Clarifications about penalties application

i) Falling from the Steps (Obstacle #1)

The athlete is obliged to turn around the last step according to the image below and then go back to the first step again.

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ii) Falling from the Big Wheel (Obstacle #2)

When trying the big wheel for the second time, the athlete must go back to the Steps and choose to restart from any of the options A to E in the image below.

*If during the second attempt to overcome the Big Wheel the athlete falls off any of the steps 1 to 4, it will not be considered a failure unless the fall is on or beyond the start line that marks the beginning of obstacle Big Wheel (orange line on the image below).

Regarding the location of step #4, the vertical projection of the end of the step top must align with the beginning of the Big Wheel truss structure (marked by the orange line on the image below).

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**REMINDERS ABOUT OBSTACLE DISCIPLINE COMPETITION ORGANISATION**

Considering the observations and feedbacks from the first national and international tournaments run by UIPM National Federations (NFs), organisers must take into account the following topics regarding competition safety:

i) Specifications presented in the UIPM Obstacle Competition Guidelines and the UIPM Obstacle Catalogue are addressed to U15 and older age category competitions.

ii) Item 2.2 d) of the UIPM Obstacle Catalogue ([here](#)) establishes the dimensions of two types of mattresses that are mandatory ground padding for the safety of the athletes. Thick mattresses must cover the entire surface under each obstacle and extend beyond the boundaries of the obstacle by at least 100cm on each side. Thin mattresses should be placed on the landing platforms to enable a softer landing.

iii) The vertical trusses should be padded with a 2 cm “thin” mattress to minimise the risk of injury due to athlete impact.

iv) Ropes must not be used on the finish wall to assist athletes to climb the obstacle (except in the cases described in article 3.8 iii) of the UIPM Obstacle Discipline Competition Guidelines).
The Paris 2024 Olympic Games Organising Committee has published sport-specific guidelines for all teams and officials to understand the rules around placement of identifications on athlete uniforms. This includes: Identification of the Manufacturer; Product Technology Identification; NOC Emblem and National Identity; and Homologation Marks. You can find the Modern Pentathlon guidelines, with specific reference to each discipline, by clicking this link.
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.”