

2021 UIPM Innovation Commission Meeting

Minutes

Monaco, 28 October 2021



Following the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, based on a series of debriefing and information, it came to the UIPM's attention that submitting to the IOC Programme Commission a proposal keeping riding for Los Angeles 2028 would bear a very high risk of losing UIPM's spot in the Olympic Program. The UIPM Innovation Commission (IC) met in the UIPM Headquarters to discuss the feasibility, possibilities, and recommendations for a potential process of replacement of the riding discipline in Modern Pentathlon (MP) according to the latest IOC criteria for the sports program and its data assessment.

The difficulties for keeping riding in MP are linked to the difficulties to develop and expand the sport worldwide; the high cost of keeping or renting horses for both training and competitions; the decreasing quality of the performance level of the discipline throughout the years; and the need to maintain the MP relevance for current and future generations.

The IC Members debated the subject agreeing unanimously that a potential replacement of riding would entail a big opportunity to the sport growth, both in the number of nations and athletes in every country. It has been highlighted that no matter the direction to be taken it is crucial to maintain the essence of Pentathlon, with 5 events from 5 different disciplines that determine the most complete athlete of the Olympic Games.

The Commission agreed also on the following criteria that must be recommended to the UIPM Board and Congress in order to determine the new 5th discipline:

- Follow the Coubertin narrative of the most complete athlete
- Not fall under the governance of another IOC-recognised International Federation in the summer Olympic programme
- Allow for global accessibility and universality
- Be attractive and relevant for global youth and future generations
- Provide for gender equality and fairness
- Meet sustainability and legacy requirements of IOC Olympic Agenda 2020+5
- Be exciting and easily understandable for TV / digital audiences and all sports fans
- Be low-cost for both athletes and organisers (lower equipment costs and fewer officials)
- Result in minimal injury rates and be easy to learn and train based on athletes' existing skills
- Not cause transportation and logistical complications
- Fit inside new Pentathlon Stadium and urban settings
- Be compatible with new 90-minute elimination format
- Be compatible with current handicap start and continuous event concept

The IC concluded the meeting suggesting that, in case of a decision to propose to the IOC the replacement of riding for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Program, the athletes should play a central role within the following consultation process about a possible new fifth discipline, as well as a wide group of UIPM stakeholders representing National Federations, coaches, judges, media, and marketing.