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SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE: PLEASE JUDGE PENTATHLON ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE, NOT THE PAST



For many years, Modern Pentathlon has appeared in conversations about Olympic uncertainty. Speculation about its future has surfaced repeatedly, generating familiar headlines.

Yet, as we all know, headlines do not always tell the full story.

The more important question is not whether Pentathlon belongs in the future of the Olympic Games, but whether people who write headlines and launch speculative remarks are even aware of how far the sport has evolved.

Pentathlon today is very different from the version many remember from previous decades. The introduction of Obstacle racing has brought dynamic, head-to-head competition inspired by the energy and excitement audiences associate with Ninja-style TV shows. Laser Run continues to provide heart-stopping tension and epic sprint finishes. Combined with more jeopardy in Fencing and a faster Swimming element, the sport is now a 90-minute blur of intense excitement designed for constant engagement.



Beyond the field of play, the transformation has been equally significant.

The competition format has become more compact and adaptable, suited to urban environments and compatible with parks, beaches, stadia, indoor arenas or any site with an area of 500sqm. Hosting requirements have been streamlined, making events more accessible and cost-effective, while maintaining full gender balance and strengthening opportunities for global participation.

These changes have not happened by chance. They reflect years of work to ensure Pentathlon aligns with the expectations of future generations of athletes, fans, hosts and the wider Olympic Movement.

Change in sport can take time to be recognised. Perceptions often remain tied to the past, even when reality has moved forward.

That is why those who remain sceptical are encouraged to experience the sport as it exists now — either in person or online.

Join us on YouTube for the Pentathlon World Cup Finals in Budapest on June 12-13.

In the meantime, follow our content explosion on social channels like Instagram or TikTok or Weibo

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If you can make it to Hungary or China to see this year's top-level competitions and watch two generations of pentathlete battle for supremacy, even better!

Either way, I promise you will be surprised by what you see. I've seen so many people arrive at a competition with certain expectations and then leave with a totally different perception of Pentathlon.

The atmosphere, pace and performance reveal a sport designed for today's audiences and tomorrow's Olympic landscape.

At UIPM we welcome scrutiny, and we expect it, because we are constantly changing to fit the landscape we find ourselves in. Change should always come with scrutiny. But scrutiny is most valuable when based on what a sport is becoming, rather than what it used to be.

So the message is simple: our doors are open, come and see at the future of Olympic sport!