



Pentathlon Canada Statement on the removal of horse riding following the 2024 Paris Olympics

March 11, 2022

Pentathlon Canada cares deeply about equine welfare and rider safety. The Board of Directors is saddened that riding will be removed as a core discipline of the sport of modern pentathlon after the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Many Canadian pentathletes, including current and past board members, entered modern pentathlon through horse sport.

We also acknowledge the need to innovate modern pentathlon. Due to this, as well as the ongoing welfare and safety concerns around the riding event, Pentathlon Canada, along with 81% of National Pentathlon Federations, supported the UIPM to submit a competition format for the 2028 Olympic Games without riding. The November 2022 UIPM Congress will confirm the replacement discipline.

For modern pentathlon to be a successful Olympic sport, it must be accessible and affordable. Unfortunately, access to horses and coaching is an issue in many countries and some areas of Canada, stifling the sport's growth. By replacing riding with a more accessible 5th discipline, modern pentathlon can be practiced in more countries by more people, increasing the number of competitions, athletes, and viewers. The development of the new 5th discipline is an opportunity for growth in Canada and worldwide.

As a respected equestrian nation of the international pentathlon community, Pentathlon Canada has been concerned with horse welfare and rider safety for many years. Riding reform has been a significant focus for us and motions to reform horse welfare and rider safety have been tabled at previous UIPM Congresses. The most recent motions by the Pentathlon Canada Horse Welfare and Rider Safety Working Group were submitted to the 2021 UIPM Congress, of which many were adopted.

Horse riding has been an honoured tradition in the sport of Modern Pentathlon in Canada. The event will remain in Canadian and International competitions through to the 2024 Olympic Games and will always be a part of the sport's rich history.

With the sudden removal of riding, Pentathlon Canada acknowledges the pentathlon community's concerns about the uncertainty of the future of the sport. We will continue to share information, new developments, and engage the pentathlon community in helping bring forward ideas around the development of the 5th discipline.

Pentathlon Canada Board of Directors