

From: UIPM Headquarters
Sent: maandag 23 augustus 2021 11:05
To: Voorzitter | Stichting Sportonderscheidingen
Subject: RES: additional rules for horseriding in Modern Pentathlon

Dear Mr Woudenberg,

We do confirm the receipt of your email on Aug 16, many thanks for that.

Best regards,

UIPM Headquarters

Office: +377 97 77 85 55 | Fax: +377 97 77 85 50
Email: uipm@pentathlon.org | pentathlon.org



UNION INTERNATIONALE DE PENTATHLON MODERNE

Stade Louis II – Entrée C
19 avenue des Castelans
MC-98000 Monaco



From: Voorzitter | Stichting Sportonderscheidingen
Sent: maandag 23 augustus 2021 10:57
To: UIPM Headquarters
Subject: FW: additional rules for horseriding in Modern Pentathlon

Dear UIPM,

May I kindly request confirmation of receipt of our mail from Monday 16 August please?
Yours sincerely,

Elias Woudenberg
President | Stichting Sportonderscheidingen
Postbus 1, 1390 AA Abcoude, The Netherlands
E voorzitter@sportonderscheidingen.nl



From: Voorzitter | Stichting Sportonderscheidingen
Sent: maandag 16 augustus 2021 12:37
To: UIPM Headquarters
Subject: additional rules for horseriding in Modern Pentathlon

Dear UIPM,

Attached please find:

- A. our letter on the same topic from August 2008, immediately after the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing and
- B. the most recent edition of our additional riding rules as per July 2019.

Everything we wrote in 2008 still applies today - more than 12 years later, after the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo.

The core of our proposal is to introduce a rigorous obstacle height promotion & degradation system. This ensures that athletes can participate at 1.20m only after they have extensively proven that they have the riding proficiency required to enter a 1.20m arena on an unknown, drawn horse – a skill deemed extraordinary even among showjumping athletes who specialize in riding only.

Our obstacle height promotion & degradation system matches with the obstacle height promotion system in the equestrian world and gives athletes an important, positive incentive to improve their riding skills to earn additional points.

Please note that we are not writing you as or on behalf of the Dutch modern pentathlon federation, since we transferred that responsibility to KNSA in 2011. Since 2011, our role as Stichting Sportonderscheidingen with respect to modern pentathlon is strictly limited to granting the National Pentathlon Cross NOC*NSF (Nationale Vijfkampkruis NOC*NSF), an official decoration in The Netherlands since 1931, to Dutch and/or international athletes who qualify at competitions that we recognize for this purpose. One of our requirements is compliance with our additional riding rules.

Also, please note that we established these additional rules back in 2007 after extensive consultation with the Dutch equestrian federation KNHS. Given what we have seen in Tokyo, it may well be that KNHS would take a much stronger view today vis-à-vis modern pentathlon and/or that we as Stichting Sportonderscheidingen will further tighten our additional riding rules or delete modern pentathlon entirely for the purposes of the National Pentathlon Cross NOC*NSF, if the UIPM does not finally bring the riding event in line with otherwise generally accepted horse riding and welfare principles.

We wish you wisdom and decisiveness, and above all recommend to finally bring the riding event as much as possible in line with FEI rules.

Sincerely,

Elias Woudenberg
President | Stichting Sportonderscheidingen
Postbus 1, 1390 AA Abcoude, The Netherlands
E voorzitter@sportonderscheidingen.nl





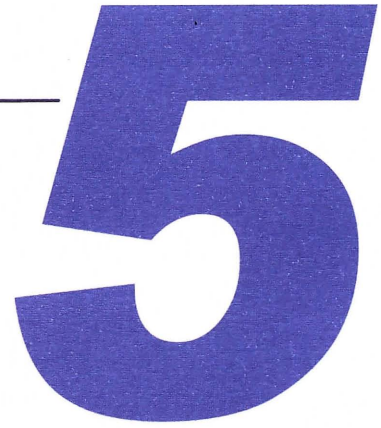
Additional riding rules Modern Pentathlon

In addition to the UIPM competition rules and regulations, the following riding rules apply to athletes who wish to qualify for the National Pentathlon Cross NOC*NSF (Nationale Vijfkampkruis NOC*NSF), an official decoration in The Netherlands since 1931, issued by Stichting Sportonderscheidingen.

1. The riding course and obstacles must comply with FEI-rules.
2. The organizing committee must supply body protectors and safety stirrups which comply with FEI-rules.
3. Athletes must use safety helmets, body protectors and safety stirrups which comply with FEI-rules.
4. Next to UIPM riding points, a second set of points is calculated for the riding event according to paragraph 4a-4d.
 - a. There are four obstacle height categories: Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV.
 - b. In Class I, all obstacles are set at 90 cm; in Class II, at least five obstacles are set at 100 cm, all other at a minimum of 90 cm; in Class III, at least five obstacles are set at 110 cm, all other at a minimum of 90 cm; and in Class IV at least five obstacles are set at 120 cm, all other at a minimum of 90 cm.
 - c. The maximum number of riding points for the National Pentathlon Cross NOC*NSF depends on the obstacle height category the combination is allowed to enter: in Class I 225, in Class II 250, in Class III 275 and in Class IV 300 points.
 - d. Thus, the points for the National Pentathlon Cross NOC*NSF are calculated by reducing the UIPM riding points with 75 handicap points in Class I, 50 handicap points in Class II and 25 handicap points in Class III.
5. Depending on the availability of suitable jumping horses, the riding director determines if, next to Class I, it is possible to also offer Class II, Class III and/or Class IV to those athletes who are entitled to ride at that level. If, depending on the quality of the horses, only Class I, Class II and/or Class III can be offered, then the maximum number of riding points for all athletes is 225, 250 and/or 275 respectively – including for athletes who are entitled to jump at a higher level.
6. For Class I, Dutch athletes must at a minimum have accomplished the Riding License (Ruiterbewijs) issued by KNHS or SRR or the Military Riding License (Militair Ruiterbewijs) issued by Stichting Militair Ruiterbewijs; for Class II, Dutch athletes must prove proficiency at KNHS- or FNRS-level in jumping Class B; for Class III at KNHS- or FNRS-level in jumping Class L; and for Class IV at KNHS- or FNRS-level in jumping Class M.
7. International athletes must submit, at least one week in advance, a written declaration of their national committee, stating in which height category their participation is deemed responsible.
8. In order to enter in Class II, III and/or IV, Dutch and international athletes can also follow the Class promotion and degradation rules in paragraph 8a-8b.
 - a. Class promotion: an athlete entitled to ride in Class I, II or III may ride in Class II, III or IV if he or she has achieved, twice and consecutively, a maximum of 25 penalty points in Class I, II or III respectively.
 - b. Class degradation: an athlete entitled to ride in Class IV, III or II must ride in Class III, II or I if he or she has achieved, twice and consecutively, more than 25 penalty points in Class IV, III or II respectively.
9. Athletes who do not comply with these rules and are of the view that they can otherwise prove sufficient riding proficiency can request the riding director for an exemption, in writing and supported by evidence. Such an exemption will only be granted in exceptional cases and must be approved by the Stichting Sportonderscheidingen as well.
10. The riding director can request athletes who do not yet have to ride or have already ridden for assistance in increasing, decreasing and/or removing obstacles. All requests by the riding director must be followed.



Olympische Moderne Vijfkamp | Militaire Vijfkamp | Nationale Sportmedaille



UIPM
Dr. Klaus Schormann, President
Stade Louis II
13, avenue des Castelans
98000 Monaco

Topic: the riding event in Modern Pentathlon

27 August 2008

Dear UIPM,

We are writing you to express our deep concern regarding the riding event in Modern Pentathlon, and its implications for the standing of our sport.

At the 2008 Olympics, the riding skills of - presumably the world's best - pentathletes have been on full display to the world through streaming video on the internet for the first time. For many of those who watched, it has been a shocking revelation. Next to the pictures, the stats tell the story: an average of 334 penalty points for men, and 120 for women.

Modern Pentathlon has been designed for the Olympic Games. Modern Pentathlon exists by the grace of the Olympic Games. Modern Pentathlon comes to the - albeit limited - limelight only at the Olympic Games. The expectations of billions of people watching the Olympic Games globally are that here, the world's highest sportive skills are on display. Moreover, Modern Pentathlon is in direct comparison with the five Olympic sports that make up its five events, importantly also Individual and Team Jumping as part of Equestrian - on 21 August, even on the same day.

Explanations offered that the 'modest' performance by most pentathletes in the riding event were due to the quality of the horses, the soil, the weather, the public, the lottery system - anything but the riders' skills at 1.20m - are not relevant. For both the trained and the untrained eye, such explanations only reaffirm a most unfortunate perception of incompetence.

As pentathletes, we know in advance that we will ride not the best showjumping horses. We know in advance that they are not our own horses, that they are drawn by a lottery system, and that we have only very limited time to get acquainted - not a small feat even for specialist showjumpers. We know in advance the height of the obstacles. We know in advance that riding is only one of five events in a taxing one-day program. We know in advance that it is hard, that there can and will be surprises.

But these points can never be an explanation for poor performance. It is precisely the other way around: they are important reasons to be extremely well prepared. They are important reasons for the UIPM to introduce strict regulation on the riding skills of athletes before they enter a 1.20m riding ring on a drawn horse in front of the eye of the world.

If the IOC has not already found enough ammunition to take our sport from the Olympic list, here is the final argument. And with streaming video on the internet, it is no longer only the IOC, but it is the court of public opinion that votes on our sport.

We feel it is vital for the future of Modern Pentathlon that the UIPM take appropriate measures in the form of additional regulation regarding the riding event.

What can be done? Please allow us to offer our own recent experience - only by way of example. The new Netherlands Pentathlon Federation has strong roots in the Equestrian sports. Last year, we created a Joint Committee together with the Royal Dutch Equestrian Federation KNHS (given the Dutch performance in Equestrian not the least), with the objective to recommend additional national regulation to the riding event in Modern Pentathlon in order to A) minimize the chance of embarrassments or grave injuries to horses and/or athletes, and B) improve the acceptance of our sport by and cooperation with the Equestrian sports to strengthen the classically weakest link in Modern Pentathlon: the riding event.





On the basis of their recommendations, we introduced straightforward but effective additional mandatory regulation in 2007, complementary to current UIPM rules, including a rigorous obstacle height promotion & degradation system for athletes. This system ensures that athletes can participate at 1.20m and earn the maximum of 1.200 points only after they have extensively proven in an externally judged, independent riding proficiency test, plus many competitions at slowly increasing obstacle height, that they have the riding skills required to enter a 1.20m arena on an unknown, drawn horse. Our obstacle height promotion & degradation system matches precisely with the obstacle height promotion system in the Equestrian world, and gives our athletes an important, positive incentive to improve their skills to earn additional pentathlon points.

Under our additional mandatory regulation, athletes are allowed to start with a maximum of 900 points at 0.90m – but only after they have passed an externally judged, independent riding proficiency test. Subsequently, only after they have proven their skills at 0.90m with a maximum of 100 penalty points, they are allowed to start with a maximum of 1.000 points at 1.00m. Once they have again proven their skills at 1.00m, they are allowed to start with a maximum of 1.100 points at 1.00m. If an athlete incurs too many penalty points, he or she falls back to the previous category. Only the best athletes, who have extensively proven their skills at all lower levels, are allowed to start with a maximum of 1.200 points at 1.20m.

Showjumpers who have already passed the almost identical obstacle height promotion & degradation system at KNHS receive a waiver and can enter horizontally in the matching category in Modern Pentathlon. We have also made body protectors, safety stirrups and other safety features mandatory to ensure that we have done everything in our power to make the riding event as safe as possible for horses and athletes. We have duly informed the UIPM of our draft and final additional regulations and understood that they would be evaluated by the UIPM Technical Committee.

Although we expected and initially received critique from our athletes ('you cannot compare riding in Modern Pentathlon with showjumping', 'you are trying to change us into showjumpers, but we are pentathletes', 'these rules favor the experienced riders over less experienced riders', 'in Modern Pentathlon, what counts is not the attractiveness of our riding skills but bravery and the fact that we come round', 'these regulations will make Modern Pentathlon even more difficult to participate in', 'I have proven more than enough in ten years of pentathlon', etcetera), we have in actual fact found that the number of athletes participating in the riding event has quadrupled, that athletes no longer prioritize the other four events when training in the hope of drawing a good horse if they made it to riding, that the quality of the riding skills has increased significantly, and that horse owners have become more willing to make good horses available for Modern Pentathlon. And most importantly, our Equestrian Federation no longer shuns Modern Pentathlon, but has instead recently proposed to promote (the riding event in) Modern Pentathlon to its members. Given the size, professionalism and commercial strength of the Equestrian sports, that would be a significant step for Modern Pentathlon.

As one of your member federations, we urgently request that the UIPM look into similar or better alternatives to improve the safety for horses and athletes, and to secure the standing and perceptions of our sport, particularly now that the wired world is putting Modern Pentathlon on full display to a global audience.

In the interest of our sport, and if appreciated, we also kindly offer to share our experience with this topic with the UIPM. There are also various other options, such as using positive instead of negative pentathlon points, thus taking away the false illusion that every athlete starts appropriately with the 1.200 pentathlon points becoming only the best of the best.

Please see our request not as critique, but as an urgent call for action with the best interests of Modern Pentathlon at heart.

Sincerely,

Bram Zuidema
President

Dr. Paul Bavelaar
Riding Director

CC NOC*NSF
Ms Erica Terpstra, President



From: UIPM Headquarters
Sent: maandag 16 augustus 2021 7:56
To: Voorzitter | Stichting Sportonderscheidingen
Subject: RES: additional rules for horseriding in Modern Pentathlon

Dear President, dear Mr Woudenberg,

Many thanks for your message and interest on this important subject.
We are happy if you could please share your additional rules for riding in Modern Pentathlon.

Best regards,

UIPM Headquarters

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Email: uipm@pentathlon.org | pentathlon.org



UNION INTERNATIONALE DE PENTATHLON MODERNE

Stade Louis II – Entrée C
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From: Voorzitter | Stichting Sportonderscheidingen
Sent: zondag 15 augustus 2021 10:25
To: UIPM Headquarters
Subject: additional rules for horseriding in Modern Pentathlon

Dear UIPM,

As a country with very high riding proficiency and a superb equestrian organization, several years ago we designed additional rules for horseriding in Modern Pentathlon.
This in order to increase horse and athlete safety and welfare, as well as athlete riding skills.

These rules:

1. have been designed in cooperation with our national equestrian federation in The Netherlands (KNHS)
2. are additional to the UIPM competition rules and
3. are always applied in competitions where the National Pentathlon Cross can be awarded.

We suggest the UIPM study these additional rules as an alternative to improve the riding discipline.
And possibly even to save Modern Pentathlon at all, following the debacle in Tokio.

If of interest, we are happy to share more on our additional rules for horseriding in Modern Pentathlon.
Sincerely,

Elias Woudenberg
President | Stichting Sportonderscheidingen
Postbus 1, 1390 AA Abcoude, The Netherlands
E voorzitter@sportonderscheidingen.nl

