



It's time to stand together in Modern Pentathlon and take control of #OurFuture

Ever since we were elected by our fellow Modern Pentathlon athletes and started our term officially in January 2022, we have been working day and night to represent the best interests of our community.

The New Pentathlon Discipline process has been a defining feature of our tenure, and we have constantly sought to gather information from UIPM and other stakeholders about the options before us as we fight to save our sport and give future athletes the same pathway to the Olympic Games that we have enjoyed.

In turn, we have constantly canvassed views from our fellow athletes, many of whom have understandably had strong feelings about this unexpected turn of events. We have been transparent and communicated with the wider athlete body throughout the entire process.

In December 2021, the UIPM Athletes Committee had a meeting with senior decision-makers from the International Olympic Committee. We were told, in no uncertain terms, that if the Modern Pentathlon format proposed for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games included Riding, it would not be successful – and we all know what exclusion from the Olympics would mean for our sport.

Throughout all the discussions of 2022, using all the information at our disposal and having closely followed the New 5th Discipline testing process, we have unanimously reached the conclusion that Obstacle Discipline is the only way forward for Modern Pentathlon. Not only that, we believe it can be much more than a source of salvation, and actually can transform the global popularity, accessibility and commercial appeal of our sport.

We will all miss our Riding discipline when it is consigned to the past, but we urge all athletes who care about the future of Modern Pentathlon to move forward, embrace change and stand together to seize the unique opportunity now in front of us.

Today, with leading pentathletes from around the world declaring solidarity with the Athletes Committee's stance, we launch a new movement entitled #OurFuture.

#OurFuture gives a voice to athletes who may not have felt comfortable revealing their true feelings, or even joining a conversation about the pros and cons of the change, because of the negativity expressed in some quarters. We will continue to listen to all opinions, but we cannot let negativity become the reason we fail to save our beloved sport. The AC condemns all forms of bullying, intimidation or targeting of any athlete belonging to the Modern Pentathlon family.

Today we have a simple, positive message for all pentathletes, regardless of where you sit in this debate: join us and let's stand together and show the world we are ready for an exciting new era of discovery in Modern Pentathlon.

It's time to take control of #OurFuture.

Yasser Hefny OLY (Chair) | Natalya Coyle OLY | Jamie Cooke OLY | Sophie Hernandez

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