

Modern Pentathlon event protocol for Australian domestic events

This document was created to assist local organising committees to stage Modern Pentathlon and Tetrathlon events in Australia. While the rules of the UIPM remain the absolute governing parameters for all competitions and must be adhered to in the first instance, it is acknowledged that sometimes in Australian events, with small competitor numbers, mixed gender and age group fencing pools and lower than full height ride courses, some 'local rules' need to be applied out of common sense.

These 'local rules' are summarized here and are intended to provide guidance for state associations and clubs staging an event. If a variance to the UIPM rules is justified, local organizing committees must adopt these rules exactly as they are, with no further amendments.

1/ Category

- National and State champion awards can only be made to athletes who complete all disciplines in their category eg athlete must ride in the Junior and Senior category
- An athlete can only enter one category and be eligible to be awarded one award eg a Junior athlete must decide whether they enter Junior OR Senior category
- Due to small entry numbers in Australia, it is usually necessary to mix genders and age categories in the fencing event (see Note 4 below for more detail)

2/ Entries

- Individual athlete entries must be ratified by their State Secretary to ensure the athlete complies with all of the following:
 - is a financial member of their state association
 - has observed experience in fencing to ensure safety
 - has endorsed Riding Permission if electing to Ride (see note 3 below for more detail)

3a/ Riding – athlete competency

- The main priority is the welfare of the horses and the safety of the riders
- While there is a set height for UIPM standards, in Australia, the quality of the horses available will largely determine the height of the course
- If an athlete wishes to enter the Junior, Senior or Masters category they must have riding permission. This riding permission must be endorsed by a registered EFA or Pony Club official or a member of the MPA High Performance Committee. If an athlete has Riding Permission already endorsed on their UIPM license they do not need to provide a separate state endorsed permission.
- The riding permission must be signed off at the height of jump that the athlete is entering in the event
- Athletes will NOT be permitted to draw for a horse, mount any horse in the warm up arena or start in the riding event without an endorsed riding permission. There will be no exceptions to this rule

3b/ Riding – owner's round

- In order to have quality horses it may be necessary for an entered athlete to ride their own horse/s in the owner's round
 - if this needs to occur, it must be announced clearly to all competitors prior to the start of the owner's round

- a Youth (Under 19) athlete may ride their own in the Owner's Round but the Ride will not count toward their Youth event score
- in the interest of fairness the following conditions will apply:
 - * if multiple horses are being ridden by the athlete, only their first owner's round will count as their ride score
 - * a penalty of 10% (30) of maximum score (300) be deducted in addition to any standard ride or time penalties
 - * this deduction must be noted on the results sheet

3c/ Riding – Course Height

- based on quality of horses it may not be possible to have a full height (as per UIPM requirements) course
 - if the course is not full height, no athlete will be penalized
- if an athlete elects to jump a course height lower than the UIPM standard and/or lower than the height approved for this particular competition, that athlete will be penalized:
 - Rider will be penalised 10% (30 points) of the maximum score (300 points) for each 10 cm below the course height eg if the course is set at 1m. and an athlete elects to jump at 80cm maximum they have 60 points deducted from their ride score
 - If a Rider jumps a lower course this must be noted on the results sheet
 - If an athlete has already had 10% (30 points) deducted for riding their own horse in the owner's round, they will not be further penalised if the course is not at full height

3d/ Riding – Score

- Ride scores will only be included in the final results for Junior, Senior and Masters category
- If a Youth (Under 19) entered athlete elects to Ride, that score will not be reflected on the results sheet and will not be added to their overall event score
- If a Youth (Under 19) athletes wishes to have their Ride score included in their overall score, they must enter the Junior category (assuming they have the relevant riding permission)

3e/ Riding – The Draw

- The draw for horses should take place immediately after the Owner's Round with all Riding athletes present
- As per UIPM rules only one rider draws with the Event Director and/or Riding Director allocating horses by a pre-determined method to other athletes. The method of allocating horses must be clearly explained to all athletes prior to the draw

4/ Fencing

- As far as it is practical, novices and experienced fencers should be separated into two different fencing competitions
 - genders can be mixed within each of these competitions
- fencers must fence as many one hit bouts as are required to reach the minimum number of bouts required by UIPM scoring system
 - if multiple hits are required, these should be done in immediate succession but each as a standard one minute one hit bout

5/ Order of events

- It may not be possible to stage all sports on one day. In Australian domestic events it is allowed to organize the event over two days and to have the Ride as the first event on day one if required
- All events should always finish with the Laser Run, held under handicap conditions

6/ Results

- It is usually not practical to use the UIPM scoring system due to the multiple age groups, mixed gender and variety of categories
- Australian domestic events must use the attached template to ensure all domestic results are recorded in a consistent manner
- Results must be visible to all competitors at the end of every event
- Final results should be visible to all competitors prior to the presentation
 - any appeal against an individual event result must be lodged in writing prior to the next event commencing (with a \$50 cash deposit that will be returned if the appeal is upheld)
 - any appeal against the overall final results must be lodged in writing prior to the presentations commencing (with a \$50 cash deposit that will be returned if the appeal is upheld)

7/ Officials

- As far as it is practical, parents, siblings or coaches of any entered athlete should not be allocated official duties in any of the sports that require scoring, timekeeping or result-keeping; nor should they be appointed to the Jury of Appeal

7/ Jury of Appeal

- The Event Director must announce clearly to all competitors prior to the first event commencing, who the Jury of Appeal members are
- The Jury of Appeal should consist of at least 3 people, from the pool stipulated below:
 - The Event Director
 - The Competition Manager
 - Any MPA member present who has a current UIPM Judges license
 - One of the event Managers (eg Swim Manager or Laser Run Manager)
 - A member of the MPA High Performance Committee