

## ***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 difficulties in obtaining pool horses, some 'local rules' need to be applied out of common sense.

These 'local rules' are summarized here and are intended to provide guidance for modern pentathlon associations (national, state 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 compete in all disciplines in their category (e.g. an athlete competing in the junior or senior pentathlon category must compete in each of the swimming, fencing, laser running and riding/OCR disciplines).
- An athlete may only enter one category at an event and will only be eligible to be awarded one award (e.g. a Junior athlete must decide whether they wish to enter in the Junior or Senior category, but cannot enter in both).
- 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 MPA or their State association to ensure the athlete:
  - o is a financial member of MPA or their state association; and
  - o holds a Riding Licence where relevant 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 compete in the riding discipline in either the Junior or Senior category, they must hold a Riding Licence at the appropriate level or jump height. A Riding Licence consists of either the 'MPA Riding Competency Certification' (endorsed by a registered Level 2 EA Coach and the MPA President) or a UIPM Riding Licence (endorsed by a registered Level 2 EA Coach and the MPA President. If an athlete has a Riding Licence already endorsed on their UIPM licence they do not need to provide a separate MPA Riding Competency Certification.
- Athletes competing in the Junior or Senior category will NOT be permitted to draw for a horse, mount any horse in the warm up arena or start in the riding event without a Riding Licence. There will be no exceptions to this rule at the National Championships.

### **3b/ Riding – owner's round**

- In order to have quality horses in the pool, it may be necessary for an entered athlete to ride their own horse/s in the owners' round
  - o if this needs to occur, it must be announced clearly to all competitors prior to the start of the owners' round
  - o a Youth (Under 19) athlete, offering their horse as a pool horse, may ride their horse in the owners' round but the ride will not count toward their Youth event score
  - o in the interest of fairness the following conditions will apply:
    - \* if an athlete is riding more than one horse in the owners' round, their first 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
  - o if the course is not full height for this reason, no athlete in the relevant category will be penalized
  - o if an athlete elects to jump a course height lower than the UIPM standard and/or lower than the height approved for the particular competition (Note: athletes



CANNOT elect to ride lower at a National Championship event), that athlete will be penalized:

o athlete 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

o If an athlete jumps a lower course this must be noted on the results sheet

o If an athlete has already had 10% (30 points) deducted for riding their own horse in the owners' round, they will not be further penalised if the course is not at full height at their election

### **3d/ Riding – Score**

· Ride scores will only be included in the final results for Junior, Senior and Masters categories.

· If a Youth (Under 19) athlete wishes to have their Ride score included in their overall score, they must enter the Junior category (assuming they have the relevant Riding Licence)

· Time Limit is the Time Allowed + 60 sec. (where Time Allowed is the Time Allowed under UIPM Competition Rules)

### **3e/ Riding – The Draw**

· Where the ride is the first event of the competition the ride order will be determined by a draw by all competitors prior to the owners' round.

· The draw for horses must take place immediately after the owners' round with all riding athletes present

· As per UIPM rules only one athlete draws with the Technical Director and Riding Phase 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 (e.g. in the event of an athlete drawing a horse that is obviously unsuitable with regard to size, the athlete will be allocated the next horse listed which is suitable with regard to size).

· Draw/horse changes due to rider suitability are at the discretion of the Technical Director with input from the Phase Director and horse owner. Clear reasoning for the decision must be provided to the athlete in writing.

### **4/ Fencing**



- As far as it is practical, novices and experienced fencers should be separated into two different fencing competitions

- o 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

- o if multiple hits are required, these should be done in immediate succession but each as a standard one minute one hit bout

- Clothing/Equipment.

- o Competitors may wear non FIE clothes and masks

- o FIE plastrons are compulsory

- o All under 13 competitors must wear chest protectors

- o All females must wear chest protectors

- o Non FIE weapons are also permitted

## 5/ Swimming

Heats – athletes will be placed according to their best swim time as advised and lanes allocated as per UIPM Heats 5.3.1(vi) best time will swim in central lane of the pool, than next fastest on left, then alternating right and left in descending order by their swim times i.e. 8 lane pool central lane is 4.

## 6/ Order of phases

- It may not be possible to stage all the disciplines on one day. In Australian domestic events it is permissible to organize the event over two days.

- All events should finish with the Laser Run, held under handicap conditions

## 7/ Results

- Results must be visible to all competitors at the end of each discipline

- Final results should be visible to all competitors at least 15 minutes prior to the presentation



o any appeal against an individual discipline result must be lodged in writing prior to the next discipline commencing (with a \$100 deposit that will be returned if the appeal is upheld)

o any appeal against the overall final results must be lodged in writing prior to the presentations commencing (with a \$100 deposit that will be returned if the appeal is upheld)

## **8/ Officials**

· As modern pentathlon events rely heavily on volunteers, including parents, siblings, coaches and other supporters, their roles in official duties are inevitable. To manage this potential conflict there must be transparency, duplication and checking of results to ensure fairness.

· In addition, anyone with a potential conflict of interest should not be appointed to the Jury of Appeal

## **9/ Jury of Appeal**

· The Event Director must announce clearly to all competitors prior to the first discipline commencing, who the Jury of Appeal members are.

· The Jury of Appeal should consist of at least 3 people:

o The Technical Director (holder of a current full UIPM Licence)

plus at least 2 from the pool stipulated below:

o The Event Director

o The relevant Phase Director (eg Swim Director, Ride Director etc)

o An MPA member present who has a current UIPM Judges license

o A member of the MPA High Performance Committee

· Parents, coaches etc cannot form part of the Jury of Appeal for their own family member or athlete but may be asked for clarification of the nature of the appeal.

**updated 16/4/23**

