



Technical Newsletter

Dear Member Federations, Coaches, Athletes and Technical Officials

With the commencement of the new Olympic cycle and the recent approval of significant rule changes by the UIPM Congress 2024, UIPM is dedicated to delivering key updates and essential information at the start of the season. This publication aims to offer stakeholders key insights and clarifications on the major changes in the competition rules, ensuring full compliance and optimal preparation for the upcoming events.

A

GENERAL ASPECTS

Article 1.12.2 – Participation in World Championships for Individuals

- Each NF may register up to 8 athletes per gender.
- In the Under 15 World Championships, there is no limit on registrations.
- If more than 4 athletes from the same NF qualify for the Semi-finals (Junior and Senior) or Finals (Under 15, Under 17 and Under 19), the NF must select only 4 athletes to continue.

Article 1.12.4 – Participation in World Cup Series

- Each NF may register up to 8 athletes per gender in each competition.
- If more than 4 athletes from the same NF qualify for the Semi-finals, the NF must select only 4 athletes to continue.
- Host nation allowance:
 - Up to 12 athletes per gender may compete in the Qualifications.
 - If more than 6 athletes from the host nation qualify for the Semi-finals, the host nation must select only 6 athletes to continue.
- In the World Cup Final, each NF is limited to 3 athletes per gender.

B

FENCING

Article 2.1 – Presentation of the Event

	Qualifications	Semi-Finals	Finals	WCF	OG
U17 & U19	Ranking Round	N/A	Ranking Round	N/A	N/A
Junior & Senior	Ranking Round	Seeding Round + Direct Elimination	Direct Elimination	Direct Elimination	Direct Elimination

- Seeding Round determine the placement of athletes for the Direct Elimination Phase in both Semi-finals and Final.
- The Fencing Bonus Round has been removed from all competitions.
- The Seeding Round will not be used in the World Cup Final and Olympic Games. Instead, athletes will be seeded based on their Fencing World Ranking (FWR).

Article 2.3.2.1 – Individual Competition

- The above-mentioned article reads in its point i):

“In individual competitions, each bout is won by the first athlete to reach five hits or, if the one-minute time limit expires, by the athlete with the higher score.”

Clarification: When the score is 4-4 and a double hit occurs, the referee must call “No touch” and resume the bout at the same place on the piste. Fencing continues until one athlete scores a valid individual hit or the one-minute time limit expires.

Article 2.3.2.2 – Relay Competition

- The above-mentioned article reads in its point ii):

“The first two athletes fence until one of them scores five hits within the one-minute time limit. The next two athletes then fence until one of their scores reaches ten hits, also within a one-minute time limit.”

Clarification: When the score is 4-4 in the first relay bout and a double hit occurs, both athletes are awarded a point, bringing the score to 5-5. The referee must declare the end of the bout, and continue with the second athlete relay bout.

Article 2.6 – Fencing World Ranking (FWR)

- Follows the same structure as the Pentathlon World Ranking (PWR).
- Points are awarded based on the athlete’s performance (final position) before the Direct Elimination phase:
 - Seeding Round: Positions 1st to 36th.
 - Ranking Round: Positions 37th and beyond.
- No FWR points will be awarded at the World Cup Final or the Olympic Games.

Article 2.7.2 – Types of Penalties

	Ranking Round	Seeding Round	Direct Elimination
Red Card	Ten (10) MP Points	Deduction of one (1) victory	One (1) hit against

B

OBSTACLE

Article 3.3.1 – General Aspects

- The above-mentioned article reads in its point ii):

“Eight obstacles on a course 70m in length will be used for both Individual and Relay competitions.”

- The above-mentioned article reads in its point iii):

“In the Junior and Senior competitions, six (6) obstacles will be fixed for consistency across events. The other two (2) obstacles will be drawn during the first Technical Meeting (TM) for Qualifications, and redrawn in the TM before the Semi-finals, which will also apply to the Finals. In the U15, U17 and U19 competitions, all eight (8) obstacles will be fixed.”

Table 1. Course configuration for Junior and Senior age groups.

OBSTACLES		DRAW #1	DRAW #2
1	STEPS	WHEELS	RINGS
2	BIG WHEEL	FLYING HOOPS	CLIMBING HOLDS
3	TILTING LADDERS	ASCENSION BARS	SWINGING GLOBES
4	OVER-UNDER-THROUGH		
5	DRAW #1		
6	GIANT STEPS		
7	DRAW #2		
8	FINISH WALL		

Table 2. Course configuration for U15, U17 and U19 age groups.

OBSTACLES	
1	STEPS
2	BIG WHEEL
3	OVER-UNDER-THROUGH
4	RINGS
5	BALANCE BEAM
6	WHEELS
7	MONKEY BARS
8	FINISH WALL

Article 3.5.3 – Over-Under-Through

- The above-mentioned article reads:

“Pass over the over wall, under the under wall and through the opening in the through wall. Any part of the walls can be used or touched except for the vertical supporting frames.”

Clarification: The ‘over wall’ is considered started when an athlete applies their weight to the wall and both feet leave the ground. An attempt is deemed unsuccessful if, after starting the obstacle, the athlete touches the ground with any foot before successfully crossing the ‘over wall’. This results in a fault being called, and the athlete receiving a warning. In this case, the athlete may begin their second attempt from the same spot where the fault occurred. The athlete is not required to proceed to the end of the ‘through wall’ and return before starting the second attempt.

Article 3.5.10 – Climbing Holds

- The above-mentioned article reads:

“Use only hands on the holds to traverse the obstacle. Touching the ground between the platforms is forbidden, except in the situations described in Art. 3.4.4 iii). There is no obligation to use all of the Holds except as described in Art. 3.4.1 iii).”

Clarification: Each lane of the obstacle has holds on both sides, but only one side may be used. It is not permitted to switch sides while traversing or to grip holds on both sides simultaneously.

Article 3.6 – Scoring Points

- The above-mentioned article reads:

“Modern Pentathlon points are awarded according to the performance times presented in Appendix 3B1 and 3B2 of these rules. Each 0.33 seconds is equal to 1 MP point.”

Article 3.8 – Clothing

- The above-mentioned article reads in its point vi):

“Gloves, wristbands, callus guards, compressive sleeves and similar items are not allowed.”

- The above-mentioned article reads in its point vii):

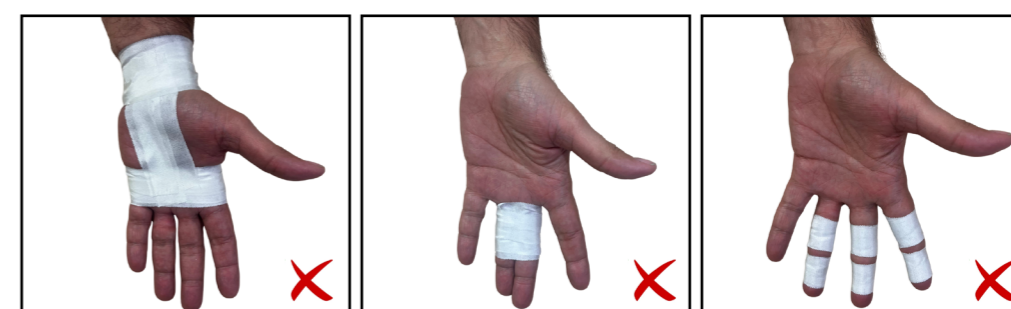
“The use of tape on the wrists and hands is prohibited, with the exception of medical tape.”

Clarification: Only medical tape is allowed, and its primary purpose is to protect the skin on the hands from tearing (e.g., blisters, rips). The medical tape can be applied provided it does not create any connection between the articulations of the wrist and hand. The tape may encircle the palm, fingers, thumb, or wrist; however, all joints of the wrist, hand, and fingers must retain full mobility, ensuring an unrestricted range of motion. Additionally, the tape must not link adjacent fingers or phalanges in any manner.

DO



DON'T



A video showcasing one of the possible taping procedures is available by clicking [here](#).

- The above-mentioned article reads in its point viii):

“Watches, necklaces, rings, earrings, bracelets, piercings (of any type), loose apparel, and any other item that could catch on an obstacle are prohibited.”

Clarification: Only non-removable earrings (such as permanent studs or plugs) are allowed, but they must be securely taped to prevent them from catching on obstacles. Any piercing, whether fixed or removable, located anywhere on the body other than the ears must be removed prior to the event.

Article 3.10.3 – Safety Mattresses

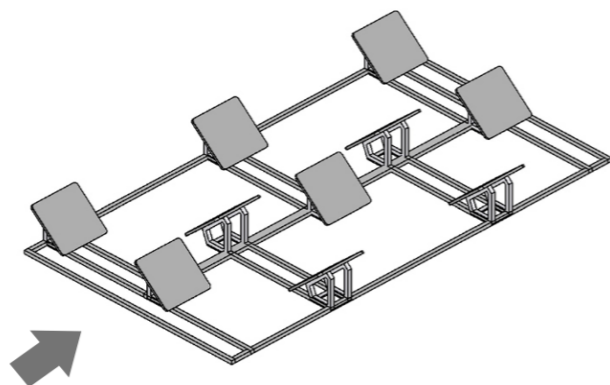
- The above-mentioned article reads in its point iv):

“Crash mats must fully cover the surface under the obstacle and extend beyond its boundaries by a minimum of 100cm on each side, to provide impact attenuation for the athletes in case of a fall from height.”

Clarification: The obstacles Steps, Over-Under-Through, Giant Steps, and Balance Beam are not required to have crash mats underneath. However, all metal and wooden components of these obstacles must be covered with impact-absorbing soft material to mitigate the risk of injury from potential impact with any part of the athlete’s body.

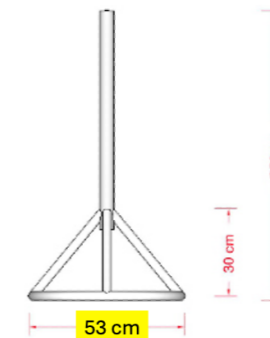
Article 3.11.7 – Obstacle #6 - Giant Steps

The Giant Steps must always be positioned with three steps on the left side of the running direction, and two steps on the right side, as shown in the image below.



Article 3.11.12 – Obstacle #11 - Flying Hoops

The diameter of each Hoop is measured at the outer edge of the circumference, resulting in a total of 53 cm.



C

LASER RUN

Article 5.3.4 – Range Open

All coaches are reminded that the shooting range will be closed 10 minutes before the start of the Laser Run in Qualifications and 5 minutes before the start of the Laser Run in Semi-finals and Finals. Upon the designated officer’s command, *“Coaches, please leave the range”* all coaches must immediately exit the Field of Play.

D

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

Article 1.22.2 – Clothing

- The above-mentioned article reads in its point v):

“NFs shall submit details, including a picture, of their kit (National Uniform) for the forthcoming year to the UIPM before the first World Cup in each year and commit to use their team uniform (for athletes and coaches) accordingly throughout the FOP and in any Zone for Coaches.”

UIPM Logo on Uniforms

Before the new UIPM logo is finalized, athletes are allowed to compete with either the existing UIPM logo or without the logo. No penalties will be applied for the absence of the logo during this periode, until UIPM officially launches the new logo.

E

ANTI-DOPING ADEL CERTIFICATE

Following the recommendations presented by the Medical Committee after its meeting last week, athletes engaged in any UIPM event must complete the mandatory WADA e-learning program, specifically the 'International-Level Athletes Education Program,' which is accessible in multiple languages on the WADA educational platform, [ADEL](#).

The certificate of completion must be uploaded by the National Federations to the UIPM Portal (on each athlete's personal profile) as evidence of compliance with this educational mandate.

This program is directly related to essential anti-doping education and plays a crucial role in upholding the principles of Clean Sport.

F

JCP REFRESHER COURSE

With the start of a new Olympic cycle and significant rule changes, it is essential for all UIPM judges to update their licences.

UIPM, through its Judges Certification Programme (JCP), has released a refresher course on the UIPM Educational Platform. This course is designed for judges who wish to renew their licenses and stay current with the latest developments. The course is open from February 4th to August 31st, and upon completion, updated licences will be valid for two years, until December 31st, 2026.



Baron Pierre de Coubertin

"The Modern Pentathlon event would test a man's moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete."

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